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MONDAY, JULY 5, 2004

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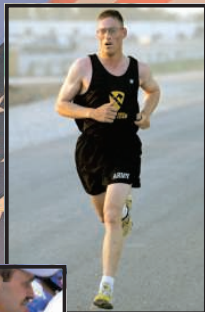


Above: New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg touches the cornerstone for the Freedom Tower at Ground Zero at the World Trade Center site during an unveiling ceremony in New York. With him are New York Gov. George Pataki and New Jersey Gov. James McGreevey.

Top right: U.S. Army 1st Cavalry Spc. Steven Phillips, of Perry, N.Y., runs on the way to winning a 3.1-mile road race at Camp Victory near Baghdad.

Right: Takeru Kobayashi, of Nagano, Japan, shoves two hot dogs into his mouth during the Nathan's Famous Fourth of July International Hot Dog Eating contest in New York.

Background: Fireworks light up the night sky in Summit, Miss.



AP photo

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NewsTracker ... What's new with old news

World

Haiti government: Caribbean leaders were expected to recognize Haiti's U.S.-backed interim government at an annual summit that started Sunday, despite lingering concerns over the ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Several leaders in the region say it's time to move forward, now that they have persuaded the Organization of American States to investigate what Aristide calls his Feb. 29 "kidnapping" by the United States, a charge Washington flatly denies.

Haitian Foreign Minister Yvon Simeon said he was to meet with seven Caribbean prime ministers Saturday night as a step toward possible recognition by the Caribbean community.

Berlin disco bombings: Libyan envoys have delayed talks scheduled for this week on compensation claims over a 1986 Berlin disco bombing that killed three people and injured 229 others, a German lawyer involved in the negotiations said Sunday.

The latest talks, the sixth round so far, were due to start Monday in Berlin. But lawyer Ulrich von Jeinsen said the Libyan side put them off on the grounds that "necessary coordination could not be completed in time," adding that a new date should be set in the next few days.

The April 5, 1986, blast at the La Belle disco, a hangout for U.S. soldiers in their West Berlin, killed two American servicemen and a Turkish woman.

U.N. crash victims: U.N. and Sierra Leone authorities on Sunday saw home the bodies of 15 Pakistani and Bangladeshi peacekeepers killed in a fiery helicopter crash in the west African nation, laying wreaths and blue U.N. flags on their coffins.

The 14 Pakistanis and one Bangladeshi were among 24 people killed Tuesday when the helicopter crashed into a remote hillside in eastern Sierra Leone. The three Russian crew members of the chartered Mi-8 were among the dead.

U.N. officials say the crash remains under investigation. The fire that accompanied the crash slowed identification and the return home of the peacekeepers' bodies.

Chechen unrest: In a rare videotape address, Chechen rebel warlord Shamil Basayev vowed to continue the separatist fight but said insurgents would not strike outside of Russia.

Basayev, shown wearing a military-style cap over his shaved head and with his trademark long, black beard, said that rebels will not target any Russians outside of the country, even those responsible for "slaughtering" Chechens, Ekho Moskvy reported.

It was the first public appearance in two years by Basayev, who commands more authority than any other rebel leader, according to Ekho Moskvy.

The new pledge contradicted Basayev's warning in a letter on a Web site in March that Russians outside of the country would be attacked to avenge the killing of Chechen rebel leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev in a car bombing in Qatar.

West Bank attacks: Palestinian militants carried out a string of attacks Sunday in the northern West Bank, including a morning



Iraq coalition: Japanese Army Sgt. Maj. Isao Ikeda, from Okaido, inspects automatic rifles of the Japanese Self Defense Forces at Camp Virginia, Kuwait, on Sunday. Eighty Japanese soldiers arrived in Kuwait to replace a contingent of logistic coordinators deployed in Samawa, Iraq, on a humanitarian mission. A total of 1,000 Japanese men and women from ground, navy and air forces are involved in a non-combat mission that faces strong opposition at home because of fear they would get caught up in fighting.

ambush that killed a Jewish settler.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades militant group claimed responsibility for the attacks, saying they were in response to an Israeli raid last weekend that killed its leader.

Israel's Shin Bet security service chief Avi Dichter also warned the Cabinet on Sunday that Jewish militants are becoming increasingly extreme and may try to disrupt the planned evacuation of West Bank settlements, a government official said.

Tropical storm: Mudslides buried houses, and rescuers battled floodwaters to evacuate trapped villagers Sunday as tropical storm Mindulle swept over Taiwan and battered the Chinese coast. At least 53 people have been killed in the storm.

The storm pushed on toward South Korea, but torrential rains at its fringes continued Sunday in many of Taiwan's mountainous areas and doused parts of southeastern China.

Koreans visit: North Korean leader Kim Jong Il has told a top Chinese leader he intends to visit South Korea at an "appropriate time," a former South Korean presidential aide was quoted as saying Sunday in news reports.

The North Korean leader had agreed to visit the South after hosting former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung in Pyongyang for a historic inter-Korean summit in 2000.

But the trip has yet to happen. Since the summit, there has been the election of President Bush; the election of a new South Korean president, Roh Moo-hyun; and the eruption of an international standoff over North Korea's nuclear weapons programs.

Indonesia election: In 1998, the fall of President Suharto opened the door to democracy in Indonesia, a chaotic process that

saw three presidents over the next six years. On Monday, that transition marks a milestone with the first direct election of a head of state.

The vote is a gargantuan undertaking in the world's largest Muslim nation, which has at least 155 million eligible voters spread across 13,000 islands and three time zones. Former President Carter is among hundreds of observers who will fan out to polling booths, many of which are makeshift contraptions made of tarpaulins and bamboo poles.

President Megawati Sukarnoputri — daughter of the country's founding father, Sukarno — is trailing in voter surveys to Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, the former security minister who resigned from her Cabinet months ago to seek her job. Three other candidates are also running.

War on terrorism

Japanese troops in Iraq: Chanting "No War," about 1,000 people marched in Tokyo on Sunday to protest Japan's decision to keep its troops in Iraq as part of a military contingent with backing from the United Nations.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has promised to contribute soldiers to a multinational force that will stay in Iraq following the U.S.-led coalition's handover of power to an interim Iraqi government last Monday. Critics say the decision violates Japan's pacifist constitution.

Organizers led the peaceful gathering with chants of "Stop Koizumi" and "No War" as they marched through a busy Tokyo shopping district. They urged onlookers to cast their ballots against Koizumi's ruling bloc in July 11 parliamentary elections.

Photo and stories from wire services

Messages of Support

★ This message is for CPL M. Silva: My dearest brother, I am extremely proud of you and all of your friends. You have shown that you are a truly brave and strong person and I have the greatest respect and love for you. Please know that I think of

you everyday and every night. You and your "marine family" are in my prayers and I know that you will come home to us soon and safely. Thank you for all you are doing to ensure that our world is a safe one! Please let your fellow marines know how supportive

everyone is of all of you and how everyone is praying for your safe and speedy return. We are so grateful for the risks you are taking to provide safety to our country. Please remember that I love and miss you dearly and I know that you are doing a good job! Your big sister Andrea. <3>

Militant group denies killing U.S. Marine

Now unclear whether Hassoun alive or killed by different group

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — An Islamic extremist group denied in a statement posted on its Web site Sunday that it had killed a U.S. Marine taken hostage last month.

The denial by the Ansar al-Sunna Army left the fate of Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun unclear. The group said it had no connection to a statement in its name put out on other Web sites claiming Hassoun's slaying — leaving open the possibility that the Marine was killed by another group or that he was still alive.

A Lebanese foreign ministry official in Beirut said Hassoun, a U.S. Marine of Lebanese heritage, was believed to be dead. Lebanon's chief of mission in Baghdad "is trying to confirm the killing 100 percent, but it seems to be over," the official told The Associated Press. "We understand that he was slaughtered. God help him."

The U.S. military in Baghdad said it was checking into the report of the 24-year-old Hassoun's death but had no confirmation. On Sunday, the military said Hassoun's status remains "captured."

tured."

The Ansar al-Sunna Army issued Sunday's statement in response to reports by the Lebanese Foreign Ministry that the group killed Hassoun.

"The media have published, quoting the Lebanese foreign ministry, that the Ansar al-Sunna Army has killed the American hostage, from Lebanese origin, who was kidnapped in Iraq," the statement said.

"In order to maintain our credibility in all issues, we declare that this statement that was attributed to us has no basis of truth," the statement said.

"We have an official Web site for publication; any statement that is not issued through our site doesn't represent us," it said.

The statement did not say whether Ansar al-Sunna Army is the group that snatched the 24-year-old Hassoun.

The claim that Hassoun was beheaded, posted on other Web sites Saturday, was issued in the name of "the Ansar al-Sunna Army in Qaim," a town near the Iraqi border with Syria that has seen frequent clashes with militants.

The original claim of having kidnapped Hassoun — in a video aired last week on Al-Jazeera television, showing the blindfolded Marine with a sword brandished over his head — was issued in the name of "Islamic Response," the security wing of the "National Islamic Resistance — 1920 Revolution Brigades," rather than the Ansar al-Sunna Army.



Neighbor Louis Garcia and his children, Mathew and Hannah, leave after delivering flowers to the home of relatives of U.S. Marine Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun on Saturday in West Jordan, Utah.

Hopeful family awaits clearer news

BY PAUL FOY

The Associated Press

WEST JORDAN, Utah — Relatives of U.S. Marine Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun awaited official word of his fate as a Lebanese news agency reported Sunday he been killed by his captors in Iraq, and then a Web site of the militant group alleged to have killed him denied the claim.

The U.S. military in Baghdad said it was checking into the claim but had no confirmation.

"The denial gave us a big relief," Hassoun's brother, Sami, told The Associated Press by telephone from the northern city of Tripoli, where some of Hassoun's relatives live.

Sami Hassoun acknowledged that the family was still worried about his brother's fate, with conflict

ing reports and no hard evidence, and was still reeling from reports of his beheading.

"We are hoping that good news will come later tonight that Wassef is alive. God willing," he said. He renewed his appeal to the kidnappers to release his brother.

Capt. Amy Malugani, a Marine Corps spokeswoman assigned by the military to provide support for the Hassoun family, did not answer her phone early Sunday. Instead, a message instructed members of the media to contact Marine Corps Headquarters, where phones were not answered either Saturday or Sunday.

On Saturday, Shuaib-Ud Din, the imam at Khadeeja mosque in nearby West Valley City, met with Hassoun's family members for about 15 minutes at their home, where the yard had been decorated in recent days by about two dozen flags put up by Boy Scouts.

Iraqi troops foil car bombing outside headquarters

BY NADIA ABU EL-MAGD

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi troops foiled an attempted car bombing Sunday outside their headquarters in a city northeast of Baghdad after security forces shot dead a man who threatened to blow up his vehicle, officials said. Two bystanders were also killed.

Iraqi officials in the city of Baquba said Sunday morning that a man driving a car rigged with explosives tried to attack the National Guard building there. The attacker got out of the car and the Iraqi troops opened fire, killing the man and setting off the explosives in the car, according to police chief Waleed al-Azawi.

Hospital officials reported that two bystanders were killed in the explosion.

Another car bombing targeted a passing U.S. convoy west of Baghdad around 8:30 a.m., causing injuries, said Maj. Phil Smith of the 1st Cavalry Division.

In Baghdad, an explosion shook the home of an Education Ministry employee, in another attack targeting officials working with the interim government. Even low-level workers have been subjected to attack by insurgents



A U.S. armored truck passes next to a tanker blaze Sunday after an American-escorted gas tanker convoy was attacked by insurgents on the highway west of Baghdad. No one was injured in the attack.

who see the employees as collaborators with U.S. forces.

On the road between Baghdad and the restive city of Fallujah, insurgents carrying rocket propelled grenades and machine guns ambushed about 20 Ameri-

can gasoline tankers, setting one on fire.

There was no immediate word on casualties.

U.S. troops fanned out in the area, searching for the attackers.

Despite its vast oil reserves,

Iraq has a limited amount of refining capacity and needs to have gasoline imported from neighboring countries.

The violence Sunday was part of ongoing attacks that have plagued Iraq for more than 14



A member of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps. His face covered for fear of identification, questions a motorist Sunday at a checkpoint on the outskirts of Baghdad.

months since the fall of Saddam Hussein.

An Iraqi police official announced Sunday that U.S. and Iraqi forces have detained six members of a militant group suspected of carrying out a string of assassinations in the country's northern region. The men were reportedly members of Ansar al-Islam, a Kurdish group believed linked to al-Qaida, said Col. Sarhat Qader of the Iraqi police.

1st AD takes a giant step toward home

Division cases its colors in Baghdad

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — For the soldiers of the 1st Armored Division, home has been a long time coming.

"It's Fourth of July — Independence Day," said Staff Sgt. Renaldo Valentin-Rivera of San Sebastian, Puerto Rico. "They chose a nice day for us to close out this deployment."

The division, based in Wiesbaden, Germany, was sent to Iraq in April 2003. After one year, the troops were about to go home but were told they would be staying for another three to four months. Some who had already returned to Germany were sent back to Iraq.

Sunday's casing of colors, a ceremony in which the division's flags are put away to signal its departure from the battlefield, was another step in the trip home. The colors will be uncased when the troops are back in Germany.

"You want the ceremony to have the pomp and circumstance of a military ceremony, something to be proud of, and you want it to be colorful," said Maj. Brian Williams of Sanford, N.C., and Headquarters Company, who helped organize the event.

"It's got to be respectful for the soldiers we lost. We're leaving the field of battle, and we're leaving with 137 soldiers who didn't go home alive."

"So everything we put into the ceremony has to honor them, has to honor all the work we've done, and has to honor the Iraqi people because we put so much effort into the work."

Only a few hundred of the division's



PHOTOS BY CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Spc. Daniel Hanks, right, of Bolingbrook, Ill., and the 501st Military Police Company, and Spc. Michael Kahly, of Chicago and the 501st Military Intelligence Battalion, hold their units' flags in the "parade rest" position on Sunday at Baghdad International Airport during the casing of colors for the 1st Armored Division.

20,000 soldiers were able to attend the ceremony, held outside a hangar at 1st AD's headquarters at Baghdad International Airport.

It included soldiers holding the unit flags of the brigades, battalions and companies within the 1st AD. Williams said the soldiers carrying their unit's colors have been through the years because these colors were outstanding.

"The color-bearer has always been a

very special honor because they protect the colors with their lives," he said.

For Valentin-Rivera and other members of the 1st AD band, it was a day to start getting ready to go back to Germany.

"It feels great," said Spc. Daniel Lopez of Brownsville, Texas. "It was our last gig and we knew that once it was over, we can start packing up to go home."

Lopez, who plays the euphonium, said his wife, Vanessa, was waiting for him and



Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division encase the division's flags during Sunday's casing of colors ceremony.

that he couldn't wait to see his three children, ages 3, 2 and 1.

Sgt. Stanmore Hinds, who plays trumpet, estimated that the band and its various incarnations — marching, quartet, rock and Dixieland — had performed 600 times in Iraq, including at special events and memorial services.

"This made it feel extra special because it was finally our color casing," said Hinds, of Montgomery, Ala. "We've played for everybody else's."

The band members were among the 1st AD soldiers who already had returned to Germany in late March and were sent back to Iraq because of the extended deployment. They hoped this time their return would be final.

"Who knows, we might be back [in Iraq] in a week," Hinds said. "To tell the truth, that's how I really feel. I'm not going to believe it until a couple years have passed."

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coon@mail.eastripecosd.mil



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Last month, Petty Officer 3rd Class Steve Christin, 39, of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FOURTEEN, grinds brackets to be used to attach armor to Humvees in al-Asad, Iraq. Seabee engineers have issued 160 contracts with Iraqi companies, but now will play only an advisory role in awarding contracts since the handover of sovereignty.

Transfer of authority removes Seabee role in Iraq contracts

BY PATRICK PETERSON
Knight Ridder Newspapers

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — With the handover of authority, Iraqis will take over the Seabees' job of awarding contracts, funded by Iraqi oil money, to rebuild the province northwest of Baghdad.

In awarding \$100 million in contracts during the past two months, Seabees have demonstrated American contracting methods, selecting experienced Iraqi builders who gave the lowest bids. Seabees now will stand ready to assist the Iraqis in administering funds from the country's oil revenues.

"It remains to be seen whether they will use our process or start a new process," said Rear Adm. Charles R. Kubic, commander of the Navy's Seabees.

Seabee engineers have issued 160 contracts with Iraqi companies, with one as large as \$4 million. Competitive bidding was a new process to the Iraqis.

"Some of them were used to a system where they would be handed money for contracts, not having to bid," Kubic said.

Seabees received only a few bids for the first few jobs they advertised. The number of bidders,

however, increased until a recent road project received more than 104 bids.

"We began to learn of the tremendous capability here," Kubic said. "And it didn't take them long to understand how capitalism works."

Tensions in Fallujah escalated with the March 31 killing of four U.S. contractors and the cordoning off of the city by U.S. Marines.

The fighting delayed the Seabees' plans to begin contracting with Iraqis, but Kubic remained optimistic they could complete that mission before last week's handover of power.

"In less than 100 days, we put together from scratch about \$100 million worth of work. The success of the design and contracting effort has been phenomenal," said Kubic, who added that some contracts were abandoned when Iraqis were threatened by insurgents.

"In some cases, the contractors who worked with us had to be very courageous. In some cases they've had to pull back and weren't able to work with us," Kubic said.

"There's a tremendous desire of the Iraqi professionals to get on

with rebuilding their nation. They very much want to be apolitical."

Of the 160 projects, Kubic believes the 16 schools, border patrol stations, sewage treatment plants and water purification plants will be the most important in winning citizens' support.

"That's going to touch everybody," Kubic said. "Saddam never put sewers in Fallujah."

Kubic also believes the construction apprenticeship program, off to a slow start due to the fighting, has the potential to create bonds between Iraqis and U.S. citizens. Young Iraqi workers have been invited to work with Seabees while building projects and at sites outside Fallujah.

"Of anything we're doing, this has the biggest potential for changing the outlook of the average Iraqi towards the average American," Kubic said.

Seabees perform similar humanitarian missions around the world, building schools and clinics.

"Every time we move, every time we go to a site [in Iraq], we really have to live our 'We build, We fight' motto," Kubic said. "I think they're setting a new high watermark for Seabee performance under fire."

Terror fears dampen Independence Day events at some bases

BY ADNAN MALIK

The Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain — Inside the guarded fortresses of U.S. bases, American military personnel celebrated Independence Day with barbecues and games, but terrorism fears deflated the party in some Arab countries where Americans said they preferred to keep a low profile.

The holiday comes on the heels of a U.S. State Department warning terrorists may be planning attacks against Westerners in the Persian Gulf and an announcement that families of U.S. military personnel will be evacuated from Bahrain.

Inside the heavily fortified As Sayiyah U.S. military base in the tiny Gulf state of Qatar, heavy July 4 celebrating kicked off at dawn Wednesday among the more than 1,000 American service personnel, hundreds of them on short leaves from missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The day opened with three-mile and six-mile races, followed by camel rides, a watermelon-eating contest and poolside barbecue, said Capt. Angie Blair.

But security could be forgotten, she said.

"We are always cautious wherever troops are, and today was like any other day," said Blair, 27, of Roy, Utah, who was looking forward to receiving her trophy later in the day for winning the women's three-mile race.

At Camp Victory, on the out-

skirts of Baghdad, July 4 celebrations began with a voluntary six-mile run at dawn. Soldiers attending Capt. Jim Combs' church service heard a sermon about independence.

At midmorning, the 1st Cavalry Division kicked off a 3-on-3 basketball tournament. Cakes and pies were decorated in red, white and blue icing at the division mess hall.

Inside the Navy's 5th fleet Gulf headquarters in Bahrain, service personnel and their families celebrated with a low-key barbecue with kids games Saturday.

But families of servicemen were preparing to evacuate following the Pentagon's decision to pull out relatives and nonessential personnel. The U.S. Embassy called off a community party that was planned at a Manama hotel.

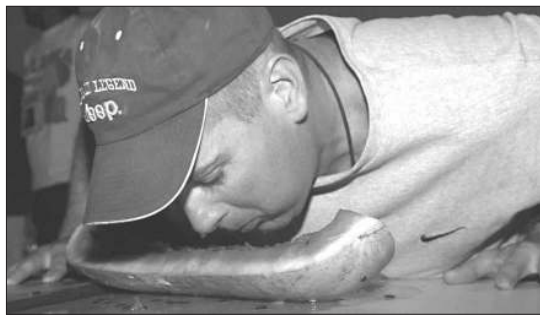
At the U.S. military's Camp Arifan in Kuwait, American soldiers were celebrating with pool parties and steak and lobster meals, said U.S. military spokesman, Capt. Randall Baucom.

"Movies are very popular today," he said, adding that "The Patriot" and "Independence Day" were being shown.

"It's a quiet holiday for me — I'm not going to hang up any flags," said Jack Smith, an information technology manager in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

"Normally, I'd have a barbecue at the house, but this year I want to keep a low profile..."

Associated Press writers Amr Faruqi and David E. Martin, and Chris Tomlinson in Iraq and Diana Ellis in Kuwait contributed to this report.



PHOTOS BY FRED ZIMMERMAN/Stars and Stripes

Capt. Don Frandsen, of the 766th Transportation Battalion, gets a face full during a watermelon-eating contest in Kuwait at Camp Arifan's Zone I Community Center on Saturday. The competition was the highlight of Morale, Welfare and Recreation's game night, which was part of its Fourth of July celebration. Frandsen finished in fourth place.

Go, Fourth! And celebrate Forces in Kuwait mark an all-American holiday

BY FRED ZIMMERMAN

Stars and Stripes

CAMP ARIFAN, Kuwait — U.S. troops here celebrated the Fourth of July with an array of games and competitions, including an all-American watermelon-eating contest.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation organizers scheduled card tournaments, video game play-

offs, a 5-kilometer run, swimming competitions and bingo. But the highlight of the evening was the watermelon-eating contest.

Approximately 20 contestants were each given a quarter of a large watermelon, and the first to eat down to the rind was declared the winner. Hands were not allowed, so contestants had to dive face first into the juicy watermelons, ignoring the mess.

"You just had to get past the seeds," said champion eater Army Capt. Kelley Hissong of the 766th Transportation Battalion. "I swallowed most of them, but once you got past them and down to the meat, it was all right."

Events started early Friday when more than 100 contestants crawled out of bed for the Independence Day 5K run throughout Zone I.

Sgt. Mark Turner, 1107th Aviation Classification and Repair Depot, was the overall men's winner with a time of 16 minutes and 6 seconds, and 1st Lt. Susan Fisher, 602d Area Support Medical Company, topped the women's di-

See related stories on Page 13

vision at 21:07. The top three finishers from various age categories received medals, while the overall top three men's and women's finishers walked away with trophies.

Later in the day, a unit swim meet was held at the camp pool.

A total of five, four-member teams participated in a medley relay — backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly and freestyle. The Deuce team, made up of Capt. John Zall, Capt. Scott Dickerson, 2nd Lt. Rachael Mandell and Pfc. Christopher Dao, all members of the 602nd Area Support Medical Company, took first place. The top three teams received medals.

Prizes, including Super Soaker water guns, blankets and gift certificates, were given to the top finishers in Saturday night's games, which included competition in Playstation 2, spades, pool, Foosball, table tennis and dominoes.

E-mail: Fred Zimmerman at: zimmermanf@stripes.osd.mil

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

We are so Proud of our Daddy!
We love you. Emily and Carriann

You guys and gals are in our hearts
and in our prayers. Keep you eyes on
the prize and stay focused. We are
with you all in spirit. Love, M. Beck - Ellicott
City, MD

Sgt. Comly — You are in our everyday
thoughts and prayers. We miss you
and love you always. Thank you for
your dedication and willingness to fight for freedom.
Stand strong, Fight hard, and come home soon.
Love, The Schuberts from Puyallup, WA

We're all thinking of you and thank
you for protecting our country. CJ

Hello my Chubby Bubby. Your Mom
said that I might be able to reach you
here. I'm not sure how this works, but
hopefully you get this. I miss you so much and I
love you. I'm fasting for you today and you are
always in my prayers. All my Love, B. Anshuber

HI BEBE- HOPE YOU ARE SAFE. I
MISS YOU. I AM GOING TO SEND
YOU A PACKAGE SOON. LOVE
YOU VERY MUCH, MANDY. XOXO

THANK YOU IS NEVER GOING TO
BE ENOUGH FOR THE BEGINNING
YOU ARE CREATING
YOU ARE FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS. The
Robert Sowards Family

Dear Fellow Americans: Thank you
for protecting our lives in America.
Thank you for making America a safer
place for all of us. Wishing you luck, success
and victory!!! Sincerely, M. Raywood. New
Jersey

We all support you 100%! To my
brother - keep up the great work!! We
love you all!!



Sgt. Rick Weaver, of the 1450th Transportation Company, works on clearing the table during the championship pool match at the community center on Camp Arifan. Weaver won the match.

Iran to file war complaint against Saddam

1980 invasion, use of chemical weapons cited

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI

The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran said Sunday it has prepared a criminal complaint against former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein for his 1980 invasion of Iran and for using chemical weapons against Iranians during the neighboring nations' eight-year war.

Tehran will file the documents with the Iraqi court where Saddam is standing trial, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said.

He did not say precisely when the complaint would be lodged.

"One of the crimes Saddam committed was his invasion of Iran and starting the war, killing many Iranian citizens and using chemical weapons in Halabja [within Iraq] and other places [in Iran] during the war," Asefi told reporters.

Iran expects Saddam will face



A veiled Iranian woman walks past a revolutionary mural in Tehran, Iran, which includes images commemorating the war with Iraq, a conflict that lasted from 1980 to 1988.

judgment in an open trial for war crimes, Asefi said.

"We have prepared the complaint and Iran will definitely file the complaint with the Iraqi court," he told a news conference.

"We will hand over our docu-

ments to the court.... We believe the court has to investigate Saddam's crimes transparently and openly."

Iraq took legal custody of Saddam from the United States on Wednesday, and the former dicta-

tor's first court appearance Thursday dominated TV screens across the Middle East, where such images are unprecedented, and prompted many calls for his execution.

The broad charges formally outlined against Saddam included the 1988 chemical weapons massacre of Kurds in Halabja, Iraq, the slaughter of Shiites during a 1991 uprising in southern Iraq and the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war apparently was not cited.

At this stage, however, Saddam was merely being informed of areas where he could face indictment and there is nothing to preclude Iraqi authorities from expanding or reducing the list of charges later on.

Asefi said Iran's top diplomat in Baghdad will ask Iraqi leaders why Saddam's 1980 invasion of Iran was not given the same weight as other crimes, such as the invasion of Kuwait a decade later.

"We have asked our charge d'affaires in Baghdad to seek explanations from the Iraqis on why the attack on Iran did not feature among the charges against him, even though the judge said the question would be addressed at a later date," Asefi said.

Saddam's defense team, which includes lawyers from Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, Libya and Western countries such as the United States, Britain, France and Belgium, has accused the interim Iraqi government and the court trying Saddam of being "illegitimate because they were appointed by the occupation."

The trial of the 67-year-old Saddam stands to be a sensation, and Iranian leaders say it should depict the 30-year history of Saddam's iron-fisted rule, including U.S. support of him during the Iran-Iraq war.

Iraq's interim prime minister, Iyad Allawi, said last week the trial would be open, but earlier he suggested closing it to keep Saddam from broadcasting embarrassing tales about past links to foreign governments.

The U.S. government was among those quietly supporting Saddam's Iraq in the war with Iran.

Thursday's session already was closed in good part, off-limits to the public and all but a few journalists.

Saddam's voice also was suppressed on the videotape aired on Iraqi television and no official transcript has been released.

Group says Iraq full of positive stories, too

BY RON WORD

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Sgt. Chris Beard suffered shrapnel wounds to his face, back and spine when a roadside bomb exploded next to his Humvee in Iraq late last year.

But he joined a coalition of Americans and Iraqis on Wednesday as the group emphasized the improvements being made in the war-torn country.

The Iraq-America Freedom Alliance said it wanted to counter news reports focusing on attacks and kidnappings by insurgents.

"I just want to make sure we balance it," said Beard, a Florida Army National Guard soldier. "From my experience, they were thankful for us being there."

Since the fall of Saddam Hussein, more than 3,000 Iraqi schools have been renovated, 9 million new math and science textbooks have been printed and improvements have been made to utilities and health care, said retired Maj. General Ronald O. Harrison, former adjutant general of the National Guard in Florida.

"Our men and women who are making the sacrifices on behalf of our nation are not focusing on the negatives and the obstacles as they interact daily with the citi-



An Iraqi soldier carries a child from a home during a weapons raid in Baghdad on Saturday. U.S. troops assisted in the raid. A group says there are plenty of positive stories like this one going on in Iraq.

zens of Iraq," Harrison said. "Americans' helping hands are everywhere."

Of those fighting U.S. efforts, Beard said, "There are bad apples who want to spoil it for everyone."

The group is committed to fos-

tering good will between the United States and Iraq and winning the war on terrorism.

While its parent organization is headed by conservatives, including Jack Kemp, Steve Forbes and Jeanne Kirkpatrick, it lists both

Republicans and Democrats on its board of advisers.

"We cannot afford to let the good news go untold," Harrison said.

"It's not all chaos. Iraq is not burning in all areas."

Turkey pulls observers out of north Iraq

BY ESRA AYGIN

The Associated Press

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Turkey is withdrawing the last of its military observers from northern Iraq, where they had been deployed since 1997 to oversee a cease-fire between two rival Kurdish factions, a government official said Sunday.

There is no reduction, however, in the several thousand Turkish soldiers in northern Iraq, who have been hunting Turkish Kurdish rebels in the mountains for years, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Turkish military observers were sent to northern Iraq to supervise a British and U.S.-backed truce between the region's two main Kurdish factions, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Kurdistan Democratic Party. The two factions had been fighting for control of an autonomous region in northern Iraq since 1991.

The official said the withdrawal would take place in the coming days.

The observers "played an important role in bringing peace to the north of Iraq," he said. "Now, the mission of the [observers] is over," he said.

The areas controlled by the KDP and PUK have been largely peaceful in recent years. The observer mission was expected to be withdrawn shortly after the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

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Military gas prices on the rise in Europe

Increase running counter to drop in fuel prices in the United States

BY WARD SANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

Americans in Germany and Britain should consider buying gas coupons on Monday unless they're driving diesel.

Despite drops in stateside fuel prices at the close of June, U.S. military gas prices in Germany and Britain will rise Tuesday, while diesel prices will drop by about 4 cents in both countries.

In Germany, gas prices will go up from between 4 to 7 cents per gallon, while in Britain, prices at the pump will rise more dramati-

cally — as much as 18 cents.

Paradoxically, prices in the Netherlands will go down for all grades by as much as 19 cents. Prices in other countries where AAFES sells gas are unaffected.

A spokesman for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service said he was unaware of the reason for the disparities in the price announcement.

A news release from AAFES said that the service purposefully waited until the first week in July to adjust its monthly prices to better reflect the U.S. price drop. The AAFES prices typically fluctuate

based on Energy Department national averages for the previous four weeks. In June's case, the recovery happened late in the month, so the exchange waited an additional five days so the total average would be lower.

The final price charged by the exchange never falls below its cost, the service says. It can be much higher, according to past exchange statements and documents obtained by Stars and Stripes, because AAFES adds charges for operating costs, subsidies to keep the prices of other staple products in its stores lower

than they would be otherwise and to cover payments to a Morale, Welfare and Recreation fund.

Prices for July are:

■ In Germany, \$2.14 for normal unleaded, from \$2.07; \$2.24 for super-unleaded, from \$2.20, \$1.88 for diesel, down from \$1.91.

■ In Britain, \$2.17 for super-unleaded, up from \$2.08; \$2.26 for super-plus unleaded, versus \$2.08, \$1.81 for diesel, from \$1.85.

■ In the Netherlands, \$2.24 for super-unleaded from \$2.28; \$2.33 for super-plus unleaded from \$2.52; and \$1.93 for diesel, from \$1.99.

According to an Energy Department report issued last week, prices should continue to fall at the beginning of this month.

"As we get further into July and especially in August, the situation is not as clear," it read.

Prices continued to drop slightly over the weekend. According to the AAA Daily Fuel Gauge report, regular gasoline sold for an average of \$1.896 per gallon in the United States on Sunday, with Saturday's price being \$1.901.

E-mail Ward Sanderson at: sandersonw@mail.espressosd.mil

Liaison bridges family and force

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY
Stars and Stripes

GIESSEN, Germany — It was a hot August night when some rooftop snipers took aim at a platoon of U.S. soldiers conducting a raid in central Baghdad.

As Staff Sgt. Anthony Johnson recounted the shootout from his office in Giessen, a nearby fan hummed and vibrated, an unintended sound effect that enhanced the year-old war story.

"Things got a little out of control," Johnson said of that firefight.

In the coming weeks, as members of the 1st Armored Division return to their home bases after more than a year in Iraq, many more stories will no doubt be told. Some will make people laugh. Some will moisten eyes.

"It's been a long year for this community," the 34-year-old Johnson said. Johnson isn't sure what the future holds for him, but there's a good chance he'll move on to a new job once the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment settles back into its rightful place. To set this story straight, Johnson is not the battalion storyteller, though he certainly could spin a yarn or two. He's the family readiness liaison representative — a walking, talking bridge between families and the fighting force.

Before the war, a liaison like Johnson may have devoted a fraction of his duty day to family issues, said Capt. Edmund Doody, the battalion rear detachment commander in Giessen. That isn't the case any more.

"It's arguably the most important job on the rear detachment

staff," he said. "Taking care of the families is our main mission."

The theory goes that spouses with pressing issues on the home front will at some point vent their frustrations to their partners in letters, especially if there are major snafus. The soldier's focus could become split between here and there. And in a place like Iraq, keeping one's head in the game is half the battle.

"It's very stressful when your husband is gone," said Gina Anderson, a family readiness group leader in Giessen. And sometimes the wives end up frustrated and angry.

That's where guys like Johnson come in.

Whether people refer to them as troubleshooters, facilitators or comforters, many Army units in Europe now have a soldier or two

in the rear dedicated to family issues. The significance of that role grows exponentially when a unit deploys for an extended period.

The liaison becomes an advocate for families, Johnson said. "It's all about caring for people," he said. "The bottom line is, I enjoy seeing happy people."

But with Johnson, it's more than that, said Anderson and Tina Rabena, the battalion FRG leader. He's married. He has kids. And he's been to Iraq. The guy is also incredibly patient and about as calm as they come.

"I've never seen him stressed out at all," Rabena said. "He just handles everything. He's been a huge blessing to the unit and the families."

In short, Anderson and Rabena said, Johnson understands both sides of the coin. He also seems to relish the many challenges that come his way every day, though Johnson admits he misses being a howitzer section chief.



Stars and Stripes



KEVIN DOUGHERTY/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Anthony Johnson, center, talks with Gina Anderson, left, a family readiness group leader, and Tina Rabena, the FRG leader for the battalion. Johnson, the family readiness liaison for the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, is viewed by spouses in Giessen, Germany, as an indispensable bridge between families and the military.

Hawaiian luau to barbecues.

Johnson also gives the spouses a clearer sense of life in Iraq is like. The loss of life and the way the Iraqis live day to day, he said, "make you appreciate life much more."

"We have a lot of soldiers,"

Johnson said of those killed in action, "who won't get that opportunity."

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: doughertyk@mail.espressosd.mil

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British soldiers take on...

Program offers summer work to young adults

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — If the workers around the local Army base seem to be a little younger lately, it's because they are — at least for the next five weeks or so.

More than 2,500 youths and young adults — from 14 to 23 years old — are taking on a variety of tasks as part of the annual Summer Hire program.

The young employees had a few weeks off between the end of school and the June 28 start date. They'll earn about \$1,200 each before getting a few more weeks off before school begins again.

"I had nothing better to do during the summer," said 14-year-old Jordan Michael Williams, who will be an eighth-grader at Vicenza in the fall. He's one of seven employed with the 22nd Area Support Group's Department of Public Works.

Armed with a weed trimmer, Jordan spent Thursday afternoon trying to eliminate errant green shoots from fences around the child development center. He said he likes getting outside and doing something.

"The pay's not bad, either," he said. Those are probably the two biggest factors for the young adults to sign up for the six-week program. The overwhelming majority of American teenagers living in military communities around Europe don't have a driver's license or own cars. So it's not as easy to go hang out at the mall. There's also a scarcity of ways to make money for much of the year. Language and legal

barriers make getting a job on the economy difficult. And besides bagging for tips at the local commissary or landing a gig with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, there's not much on base, either.

"It's very limited," said Julie Chance, a human resource assistant with the Civilian Human Resource Agency in Vicenza. Throwing in competition from military spouses makes it especially hard.

"We have a lot of spouses here that are 18 or 19 years old. And they're not limited by the hours they can work because of school."

That's why military communities launched Summer Hire. Dan Vasquez, a human resource assistant with the Civilian Personnel Operations Center, is coordinating the Army's program across Europe this year.

He said about 2,550 young adults are employed at Army bases this summer. More than 600 are working in the Heidelberg area, with Hanau not far behind in the numbers count. There are 78 in Vicenza and 16 in Livorno, which have much smaller populations.

"It's a huge workload [for organizers], but it's definitely worth it," Vasquez said.

Bases benefit because the young adults supplement operations that are often operating at minimal manpower levels. As for the workers, "it's a good opportunity for them to earn some money and gain valuable skills or job experience," Vasquez said.

Participants work in three general areas: youth services, labor and clerical. Chance, who runs the program in Vicenza along with Maddy Bailey, said clerical jobs are the most sought after. Those can involve filing, shredding, answering phone calls and computer work. The young workers tend to pick up the computer programs quickly. They are paid \$5.14 per hour, one cent less than the federal minimum wage.

"Most of the supervisors I've talked to are very glad," Bailey said of the early results of this year's program.

All of the participants are supervised. That way they can learn skills from mentors and make sure they're not trying to do tasks for which they're not qualified. For those assigned to the DPW crew, that means they can't drive the heavy equipment on base.

Because most of the public works crew at Vicenza is Italian, it also means learning some words in a new language.

Or maybe not.

"No, I'm teaching them English," Jordan said, with a grin toward his Italian supervisor. "It's been four days and I think I've taught him a new word every day."

E-mail Kent Harris at: harris@starsandstripes.osd.mil



Chance



KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

Stanley Douglas, right, helps Courtney Cox sweep up dirt and debris. The two Vicenza teens are among more than 2,500 teens and young adults employed across Europe in the Summer Hire program.

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Stars and Stripes reporter Terry Boyd speaks with Servicemembers from Triple Deuce at Firebase Purgatory.

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From left to right, Sgt. Wesley Parkhurst, Spec. Robert Isaacs, Terry Boyd, and Pfc. Michael Greenwood.

IN THE WORLD

Disputed protest ends peacefully

Police block parade of hard-line Protestants in bitterly divided N. Ireland town

BY SHAWN POGATCHNIK

The Associated Press

PORTADOWN, Northern Ireland — Police blocked about 2,000 Protestants from parading through the main Catholic district of this bitterly divided town Sunday, the seventh year in a row that the hard-line Orange Order brotherhood was blocked in its tracks.

Orange leaders handed in a letter of protest to police commanders at a 10-foot-high steel wall blocking the road. They demanded to be allowed to march to the center of Portadown via Garvaghy Road, where Catholic hard-liners have mounted protests for the past decade.

But police commanders quietly said they were obliged to uphold a ruling from the British government-appointed Parades Commission.

Every year since 1998, the expert panel has said the Orange Order won't be allowed through until the group drops its decade-old ban on negotiations with Garvaghy Road protest leaders.

Portadown's deputy Orange



A British soldier helps direct a barrier into position below Drumcree Church in Portadown, Northern Ireland, on Saturday.

leader, David Burrows, told the crowd they were welcome to protest at police lines — but only peacefully.

Within minutes of that appeal, most of the crowd piled into cars and dispersed without trouble.

The dispute over the annual Orange parade through Portadown, an overwhelmingly Protestant town southwest of Belfast, began

in 1995 when Garvaghy Road residents blocked the parade route.

The sectarian clash sent shockwaves across Northern Ireland.

Extremists on both sides watched to see whose rights would prevail — the marchers' or the residents' — with the losing side primed to riot.

In 1996, police initially blocked the parade but caved in after four

nights of Protestant mayhem across Northern Ireland. In 1997, police stunned Garvaghy Road by flooding the area with troops before dawn, then forcing the Orange parade through in the afternoon, fueling intense Catholic riots.

In 1998, police successfully blocked the Orangemen for the first time. The Orangemen stood their ground at the barricades for a week, then quit after three Catholic boys were killed in an arson attack in another mostly Protestant town, Ballymoney.

Since then, the protests have grown increasingly tepid amid acknowledgment that Orange chiefs' no-negotiations policy was a failure. British army engineers have ensured that Orangemen could not outflank police lines by erecting coils of razor wire, digging and flooding trenches in cow pastures beside the blocked road.

Orange leaders have refused face-to-face talks with the Garvaghy Road protest leader, Brendan MacDonnail, citing his conviction in connection with a 1974 Irish Republican Army bombing of the Royal British Legion building in Portadown.

Tension in Italy

ROME — Tensions persisted in Premier Silvio Berlusconi's coalition Sunday, with one of the parties dangling the possibility it might pull out after a key minister was sacrificed to appease allies in a bid for the three-year-old conservative government's survival.

Giulio Tremonti, from Berlusconi's Forza Italia party, quit as economy minister Saturday after premier's main coalition partner, National Alliance, issued an ultimatum — him or us — during a stormy meeting to plot the future of the conservative government.

Tremonti's departure angered a smaller coalition partner, the Northern League, which raised the possibility it might exit the government. The League, a big booster of Tremonti, brought down Berlusconi's first government in 1994 when it yanked its support.

In an interview with the Northern League's newspaper, Umberto Bossi, the party's firebrand leader, lamented that Berlusconi had ceded to the ultimatum. Bossi is in Switzerland, where he is recovering from a stroke.

Tremonti had embarked on a plan of spending cuts to help Italy stay within deficit limits set by the European Union for participation in the euro currency.

From The Associated Press



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Man says he shot dingo that killed baby in 1980

The Associated Press

SYDNEY, Australia — One of Australia's most enduring mysteries, the fate of a baby killed by a dingo in the Outback 24 years ago, took another twist Sunday with a newspaper quoting an elderly man as saying he retrieved the baby's body from the jaws of a wild dog he shot.

The stunning claim, by 78-year-old Frank Cole to the Sunday Herald Sun tabloid in the southern city of Melbourne, could not immediately be corroborated.

He told the newspaper he had photos of the night in August 1980 that Azaria Chamberlain went missing from a campsite near Ayers Rock, the giant Australian monolith also known by its Aboriginal name Uluru, but said the photos did not include one of the baby's bloody body.

Police initially did not believe the claim of Azaria's mother, Lindy Chamberlain, that a wild

dog known as a dingo snatched the infant and she was convicted of murder in 1982.

She was freed on appeal in 1986 and formally cleared of the murder two years later after fresh evidence — an item of Azaria's clothing — backed up her version of events.

However, the baby's body has never been found.

The saga was made into the 1988 movie "A Cry in the Dark," starring Meryl Streep and Sam Neill.

Cole told the newspaper he felt "pretty lousy and guilty" when Chamberlain was convicted.

He said he had shot the dingo thinking it was a rabid dog to provide food for a dog while on a camping trip with three friends.

He did not report what had happened to police because shooting a dingo in the national park surrounding Ayers Rock could have earned him a fine.

Police told the newspaper they would investigate Cole's claims.

Liechtenstein: We exist

VADUZ, Liechtenstein — Liechtenstein is known for little more than its novelty status as a wealthy tax haven and historical oddity. But now the tiny Alpine state wants to raise its international profile — with a new logo.

The independent principality — whose 33,000 people are sandwiched between Austria and Switzerland — launched a new national logo on Friday, saying that its future will be determined by glo-

bal presentation.

The logo consists of the name of the country in white lettering on a purple background, topped by a stylized crown made up of symbols representing key characteristics of the country.

"Liechtenstein is more than an economic location, a financial center," said Prime Minister Otmar Hasler. "The goal is to move from a mere geographical location to become a country with a standpoint."

"The reality of Liechtenstein is far ahead of the vague perceptions people have of the country," the government said in a statement. "In a world of global competition, the time has come for Liechtenstein to discover itself as a country and as a brand."

From The Associated Press

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Swinney Switch, TX



Helmut Fritzsche, manager of German Kloster Brewery Neuzelle, smokes a pipe behind two bottles of his dark beers in his office in Neuzelle in June. Fritzsche has a conflict with the food authority, because he makes beer in violation of the German beer purity law by adding sugar.

Brewer vs. 'beerocracy'

Small brewery takes on narrow German beer laws

BY DAVID MCHUGH

The Associated Press

NEUZELLE, Germany — Helmut Fritzsche is Germany's beer outlaw.

For the past decade, in his out-of-the-way red-brick brewery in sleepy Neuzelle, near the border with Poland, Fritzsche has been unrepentantly committing what some in Germany's conservative beer culture consider an unspeakable crime: He's been adding sugar syrup to his brew — a violation of Germany's five-century-old beer purity law, the Reinheitsgebot.

Now the law is after him for daring to label his brew "beer." But he's not going quietly.

It's time, he says, for Germany's hidebound brewing traditions to loosen up.

"It's infringing on the creativity of small brewers," the 67-year-old said in an interview in his office in the Klosterbrauerei Neuzelle.

"It's like taking a cup of tea, or coffee, and adding milk or sugar by platonic hand gestures. 'Some people drink it black, and some people take it white' — it's a small difference in taste."

Fritzsche's battle with what he calls Germany's "beerocracy" goes back to 1993, shortly after he bought the formerly state-run brewery from the government agency disposing of the assets of communist East Germany after reunification in 1990. The brewery, which traces its origins to monastic brewing in Neuzelle in the 16th century, had been making a dark beer with added sugar syrup — allowed under East Germany's more permissive brewing laws.

But Fritzsche now faces reunified Germany's beer laws, which permit only malted grain, hops, yeast and water.

The modern laws incorporate the original Reinheitsgebot, first set down in Bavaria in 1516. Adding anything else — such as fruit, corn or rice — to save money or tinker with a beer's color or taste, is verboten.

The law allows exceptions for "special beers," however, so Fritzsche applied to the local authorities in the state of Brandenburg, arguing he was continuing a regional brewing tradition. He

Fritzsche notes ruefully that, if his brewery was located 3 miles east across the Oder River in Poland, he could throw anything in his kettles and label it however he wanted for consumption in Germany. That's thanks to a European Union decision forcing Germany to suspend its purity law for imports as part of free-trade provisions.

While Fritzsche says being able to use the word "beer" without harassment would help market his product, he also concedes that media coverage of the dispute has helped his small operation stand out among the country's 1,200 breweries.

Still, the German Brewers' Association stands behind the purity provisions. Spokeswoman Birte Kleppen, while declining to comment specifically on Fritzsche, said the law ensures a quality product and enjoys wide public support among drinkers.

The original Reinheitsgebot has been tinkered with throughout history. The 1516 original allows only malted barley, hops and water. Yeast was allowed later, as was wheat, the raw ingredient for Germany's extremely popular wheat beers, and other grain types such as rye and spelt for some beer types.

Fritzsche's brewmaster, Christian Pohl, points out that the Schwarzer Abt is brewed according to the Reinheitsgebot until the very last step. The sugar syrup isn't the replacement for the basic ingredients, but is added only after fermentation to balance the bitterness from the darker variety of barley malt the brewery uses to give the beer its unique taste. He described the flavor as "a little in the direction of coffee."

It's time to let people experiment with the beer, Pohl said. "If you don't offer people something new, this will continue."

“[The law is] infringing on the creativity of small brewers.”

Helmut Fritzsche

manager of a small brewery

was turned down repeatedly, and eventually took it to court. His suit is now before the country's top administrative court but there's no word on when a decision might come.

In the meantime, Fritzsche finished the labelling on his dark brown Schwarzer Abt, or Black Abbot, brew, which he calls a Schwarzbier — a German term for a variety of low-alcohol dark beer.

The original label didn't exactly call it beer, reading "A Speciality Made From Schwarzbier, With Invert Sugar Syrup Added Afterward."

Last year, he went a little farther — and changed the labels to read simply, "Schwarzbier."

That led to a cease-and-desist order last month from food safety officials in Beeskow, the local government center. The order, which deemed Fritzsche's labels a "concrete danger for public safety," tells him to change them or face a fine.

IN THE STATES

Alaska fires keep residents away from homes

BY RACHEL D'ORO

The Associated Press

FAIRBANKS, Alaska — Fire officials said the promise of light rain Sunday could slow the advance of a 280,000-acre fire in Alaska's spruce-and-tundra interior, but they warned it wouldn't be enough to allow hundreds of residents back into their homes.

A week-old evacuation order remained in effect for 277 homes and 12 businesses threatened by the Boundary fire 30 miles north of Fairbanks. One home was damaged and the fire was 15 percent contained.

Alaska State Troopers were letting some homeowners through to retrieve possessions or check on property, said fire information spokeswoman Teresa McPherson.

"But troopers are discouraging people from staying," she said.

On Tuesday, hundreds of people sought refuge in Fairbanks, Alaska's second-largest metropolitan area with about 82,000 residents, when the fire tripled in size.

Cooler weather Sunday helped slow down the Boundary fire and the 170,000-acre Wolf Creek fire to the east.

The Alaska Army National

Guard planned to send two Blackhawk helicopters to Fairbanks on Sunday and a third aircraft and crew was on standby at Fort Richardson in Anchorage. The helicopters are equipped with 900-gallon buckets that can drop water on fires and carry crews and equipment.

The Wolf Creek fire 50 miles northeast of Fairbanks had charred 174,000 acres in a popular recreation area. Several people living in the area had voluntarily left their homes. Fire managers discovered Saturday that the fire burned five cabins Thursday.

There were 60 active fires in Alaska on Saturday; crews were fighting 10 of them and the others were being monitored. So far this year, 333 fires have burned nearly 1.7 million acres in the state.

Elsewhere, an observatory in Arizona was being threatened by a wildfire that grew to 1,800 acres on Saturday. The observatory is home to the \$120 million Large Binocular Telescope — one of the world's most powerful optical instruments, and two smaller telescopes.

The fire was burning less than a mile southeast of the \$200-plus million Mount Graham International Observatory, about 110 miles northeast of Tucson.



Jesse Bautista, right, and Samantha Frank work Saturday to put out hot spots from the Wolf Creek fire around a cabin near Chena Hot Springs, about 60 miles from Fairbanks, Alaska. Five recreational cabins have been reported to have burned from the fire, which has burned over 1,700 acres.

"If the wind pushes it, it could be there in two hours," said Pruet Small, operations section chief for the team fighting the fires.

The blaze, which was caused by lightning, and another 3,500-acre fire nearby prompted the evacuation of the observatory

and 70 to 80 homes on the mountain Friday. No homes or cabins were imminently threatened, officials said.

Philadelphia honors Karzai

City presents Liberty Medal to Afghan president; mayor says 'your fight is our fight'

BY PATRICK WALTERS

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Hamid Karzai, the U.S.-backed leader of Afghanistan who took over after the Taliban regime was ousted in 2001, accepted the Philadelphia Liberty Medal on Sunday at a ceremony at Independence Hall.

Karzai broke with the Taliban in 1995 and was appointed to lead his country after the U.S.-led invasion aimed at evicting the Taliban and tracking down Osama bin Laden.

"The Afghan people have sacrificed terribly to obtain freedom. In the resistance against the Soviet occupation and the fight against terrorism and extremism, we lost nearly 2 million of our people," said Karzai, who thanked the American people for helping Afghanistan gain independence.

"We have paid for it with our lives and we will defend it with our lives," Karzai said.

The medal's \$100,000 prize will go to support Afghan orphans, he said.

The award, first presented in 1989, is given each July 4 by the nonprofit, nonpolitical Philadelphia Foundation to recognize leadership in the pursuit of freedom. The selection of Karzai was announced in May.

Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street, before presenting the medal, said Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and other recent events have led Americans to understand the importance of promoting democracy worldwide.

"Your fight is our fight. Your people are our people. And your future is our future," Street told Karzai.

Karzai was elected president by a *loya jirga*, or grand council, in June 2002. He is expected to



Afghan President Hamid Karzai holds his Philadelphia Liberty Medal awarded to him Sunday at a ceremony at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. After receiving the medal, which recognizes leadership in the pursuit of freedom, Karzai said the Afghan people have sacrificed terribly to obtain freedom.

win a five-year term in the country's first Westminster-style elections this fall.

Previous Liberty Medal winners include Supreme Court Justices Thurgood Marshall and Sandra Day O'Connor, Czech President Vaclav Havel, former President Carter and United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Miss. official files suit against Vatican bank, charging racketeering

BY LYNDIA EDWARDS

The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — The torching of financier Martin Frankel's \$3 million mansion in Greenwich, Conn., was meant to destroy evidence of an insurance scam that cost Mississippi and other states millions, police said. But not everything went up in flames.

Firefighters searching the rubble found Frankel's pornographic videos, jewel-encrusted mobile phones, Ouija board and "Things to Do List." No. 1 was "Lauder more money NOW."

The financier, who initially fled to Europe, was extradited and pleaded guilty in 2002 in Mississippi to stealing \$208 million in five states.

But that did not end the case for Mississippi Insurance Commissioner George Dale.

While unraveling Frankel's web of trickery, Dale found a thread that led into the secretive halls of the Vatican. And he is determined to follow it, even though, as he says, "This step meant some soul searching."

In a lawsuit Dale filed, which is moving toward a jury trial in U.S. District Court in Jackson, he claims Vatican officials violated the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act. Damages, if Dale prevails, could be more than \$600 million.

A Vatican spokesman denies the

Roman Catholic church profited from business dealings with Frankel or accepted funds he stole. The church has filed a motion to dismiss the suit for lack of jurisdiction, and a ruling is expected this summer.

Dale remains determined to pursue his suit against "The Holy See aka Vatican City State" and others. "The evidence of wrongdoing my investigators accumulated was so clear," he said. "State officials are always slammed as paper pushers. But two federal agencies fumbled the ball with Frankel."

The Internal Revenue Service approved Frankel's taxes. The FBI had suspicions but made no moves. In the end, insurance commissioners brought this guy down.

The Vatican became involved with Frankel after he had been banned by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission from doing deals with brokers and investment advisers. The 1992 ban forced Frankel on a quest for new partners with prestige and deep pockets.

"We are not claiming that the Vatican profited," said attorney Charles Copeland, local counsel for the Mississippi Insurance Commission. "If a party should have reasonably been aware that those involved in a conspiracy were committing illegal acts in the party's name, that party can be held responsible for the amount stolen," he explained.

Cornerstone opens WTC site construction

BY AMY WESTFELDT

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A 20-ton slab of granite, inscribed to honor "the enduring spirit of freedom," was laid Sunday at the World Trade Center site as the cornerstone of the skyscraper that will replace the destroyed towers.

The ceremony marked the start of construction on the 1,776-foot Freedom Tower, designed as a twisting glass and steel tower that evokes the Statue of Liberty, including a 276-foot spire resembling her torch.

Gov. George E. Pataki said he chose July 4 to begin rebuilding to show that the terrorists who attacked New York on Sept. 11, 2001, didn't destroy America's faith in freedom.

"How badly our enemies underestimated the resiliency of this city and the resolve of these United States," Pataki said. "In less than three years, we have more than just plans on paper — we



The inscription on the granite cornerstone placed Sunday to mark the start of construction on New York's Freedom Tower on the World Trade Center site honors the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

place here today the cornerstone, the foundation of a new tower."

The cornerstone put in place Sunday is garnet-flecked granite from the Adirondack Mountains. Garnet is the New York state gemstone.

It is inscribed: "To honor and remember those who lost their

lives on September 11, 2001 and as a tribute to the enduring spirit of freedom." — July Fourth, 2004."

Among the several hundred people at the ceremony were relatives of some of the people killed in the terrorist attack.

"It's a new beginning," said John Foy, whose mother-in-law

was killed. "We all need to move on and rise above this."

Completion of the Freedom Tower is scheduled for 2009, and trade center leascholder Larry Silverstein has plans to build four more towers between 2009 and 2015.

Also planned for the site are a

rail hub, a memorial that transforms the twin towers' footprints into reflecting pools, and cultural space including several small theaters.

The Freedom Tower is set to rise in a corner of the site that still holds the ruins of a parking garage. The 1,776-foot, a height meant to evoke the year of America's independence, it will be the tallest skyscraper in the world, organizers say.

The current tallest building is the 1,676-foot-tall Taipei 101 in Taipei, Taiwan, which includes a mall, office space and an observatory. It was completed in October with the installation of a pinnacle atop the 101-story building.

The Taipei building is about 165 feet taller than the world's former highest office building, the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The highest freestanding tower remains the CN Tower, a 1,815-foot communications structure, and outlook point in Toronto.

The 110-story World Trade Center towers were 1,350 feet tall.



Takeru Kobayashi, center, of Nagano, Japan, holds his hands up in victory Sunday after winning and breaking his record at Nathan's Famous Fourth of July International Hot Dog Eating contest in New York.

Japanese man still top dog at Nathan's eating competition

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — When it comes to eating hot dogs, "The Tsunami" may just be unstoppable.

For the fourth straight year, the rail-thin Takeru Kobayashi of Japan swept over his competition Sunday at Nathan's Famous hot dog eating competition at Coney Island, gulping down 53½ winners in 12 minutes, and shattering his own world record by three dogs.

The closest competitor was newcomer Nobuyuki Shirota, 25, of Tokyo, who made an impressive showing but was still left in his fellow countryman's dust with a mere 38.

Once again, the contest's coveted Mustard Yellow Belt will return to Japan. Since 1996, the Japanese have dominated the compe-

tion and only one American — New Jersey's Steve Keiner in 1999 — has captured the belt at the signature July 4 extravaganza.

On Sunday, the 5-foot-7, 132-pound Kobayashi, of Nagano, Japan, employed his trademark method of snapping the dogs in half before swallowing them to destroy the 19 other contestants. He ate an average of one every 13 seconds in the nauseating-to-watch 12-minute display of gastronomic supremacy.

In the shadow of Kobayashi's dominance, 100-pound Sonya "The Black Widow" Thomas, 36, of Virginia, set two records of her own by eating 32 hot dogs — more than any other American, and any other woman, in the contest's history. Thomas came to the United States from South Korea in 1997.

G.I. Joe may confirm icon status with Hall of Fame

BY MIKE BRANOM

The Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Even at 40, G.I. Joe hasn't lost his trim fighting shape.

The small-statured soldier wearing his stars and stripes is marking the anniversary of his debut, fittingly, on the same weekend the country he protects celebrates its birthday. Now fans of the iconic action figure want to give Joe a gift he'll never forget: induction into the National Toy Hall of Fame.

The fact he isn't already a Hall of Famer, enshrined alongside the likes of Barbie, Raggedy Ann and Mr. Potato Head, prompted many attending the International G.I. Joe Collectors' Convention to silence their triumphant shouts of "Yo, Joe!" in favor of asking "Why no Joe?"

"G.I. Joe has more name recognition than virtually any other toy in America," Brian Savage, director of the G.I. Joe Collectors' Club, said Friday. "There's a phrase in Americana — Kung-fu grip. Where do you think that came from? G.I. Joe."

Joe's four-decade grip on pop culture, with 400 million figures sold, could be what gets him immortalized. After all, he's not just a soldier, sailor, airman and Marine, but a pioneer, too.

Marching before Joe were army men made of green plastic and the miniature lead soldiers.



Brian Clarke of Kissimmee, Fla., sets up his collection of 150 G.I. Joe action figures at the 2004 Hasbro International G.I. Joe Collectors' Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., on Friday.

But in 1964, the toy company Hasbro sought something different. It wanted to market a doll to boys — except the designers were told they would be fired if they ever uttered the dreaded D-word, according to Savage.

That's how Hasbro mustered into service Joe, 11½ inches tall

“G.I. Joe has more name recognition than virtually any other toy in America.”

Brian Savage

Director of the G.I. Joe Collectors' Club

when standing at attention, with 21 moving parts. His name came from the 1945 World War II movie "Story of G.I. Joe."

And Joe wasn't a doll; he was the world's first "action figure."

"That makes him an interesting landmark in American toy history," acknowledged

Christopher Bensch, director of collections at the Strong Museum in Rochester, N.Y., home to the Toy Hall of Fame.

Following in Joe's footsteps were the wildly popular Star Wars action figures, which led to almost every blockbuster movie developing toy tie-ins. Now action

figures replicate everyone from presidents to porn stars.

The G.I. Joe line has produced in plastic Dwight D. Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur, George S. Patton, Omar Bradley, John F. Kennedy and Colin Powell. And entertaining those war heroes is Bob Hope.

Bensch, who oversees the Hall of Fame nomination process, notes that a toy must reach icon status to be worthy of induction — and Joe meets that criterion.

"He's really reflected our culture — and among various points along the way," Bensch said. "He's been a purely military figure, he went through a period of leaving the military and being part of an adventure team, he's been 12 inches tall, he's been 3 inches tall to compete with the Star Wars figures."

The Hall of Fame will take nominations into September, and a panel of two dozen historians and educators will vote on the nominees with the two inductees announced Nov. 12.

Among Joe's competitors are board games Clue and Candy Land, and the Easy-Bake oven. If his name isn't called, Hasbro still wins; those are all produced by the Pawtucket, R.I.-based company.

OPINION

Casualty count a precursor of ballot count

BY MICHAEL GOODWIN

New York Daily News

Traffickers in conventional wisdom look at the latest numbers from the election front and see big trouble for President Bush. About 60 percent of the country deems the war in Iraq a mistake, only 42 percent approve of the job Bush is doing, says a CBS-New York Times poll.

Ignore those numbers. Come Election Day, the most important number will be 1,000. As in, how many more than 1,000 U.S. troops died in Iraq? If the answer is yes, odds are good you'll be saying hello to President John Kerry.

If it stays under 1,000, but Bush gets four more years.

With the total now at about 860, the countdown to November has become a bloody numbers game. At the current rate of mayhem, Bush will be a private citizen in January.

No, my bet on 1,000 is not scientific, any more than are the over-under numbers bookies slap on sports events. It's purely symbolic, a simplistic round-number snapshot of how things

are going over there.

But just as gamblers know that the over-under bet separates winners from losers, Bush and Kerry are stuck with the politics of body bags.

The more there are, the better for Kerry. As the numbers have climbed, so, too, has the number of Americans who are against the war — and against Bush.

The race is now a dead heat, according to all the polls. And one clear way for the White House to pull off a victory is to have fewer dead troops making headlines down the campaign stretch.

Too cynical? Perhaps.

But how else to explain giving Iraq back to Iraqis in a ceremony that had to be secret to be safe? And having U.S. forces play mostly defense instead of hunting down the thugs who have turned parts of Iraq into a Taliban-like Islamic state? The body-bag scorecard explains everything you need to know about the issue that will determine the next president.

Tellingly, the Defense Department is not as helpful as some private and media tallies. (The best Web site is icasualties.org;

CNN is also good.) Tracking American fatalities has already explained one fact: While a lot of people think Bush is one of the dumbest presidents we've ever had, nobody calls him stupid.

With good reason, because a stupid man would have stayed the disastrous course he was pursuing in Iraq earlier this year. Instead, Bush has quietly changed the American policy so much that it's hard to remember what that policy was a mere four months ago.

The body bags tell the story. In February, American deaths were at 20, the lowest of any month in the war and fewer than half of January's. But they shot up to 52 in March, then exploded to 135 in the carnage of April.

With the number approaching 80 by late May, Bush gave a prime-time speech that signaled a change of tone and tactics. Many commentators derided it as nothing new, but soon American commanders started playing it safer, and the numbers of dead started falling.

About 45 GIs have died in June, a pace that would push the number over 1,000 by November. To stay under 1,000, the four-month average from July



needs to be closer to 30.

Even if Bush can pull that off, it's probably too late to persuade Americans that the war was a good idea. But minimizing our losses will keep the story off the front page.

And that will allow Bush to

change the debate to another number, one more to his advantage — jobs. More than 1.4 million have been added since August, a boom that, if it keeps going, would erase all the losses since 2001.

Only then could Bush count on the job he cares about most.

Social benefits are inherent to existence of draft

BY NOEL KOCH

As a speechwriter for President Nixon, I wrote the legislative message proposing an end to the military draft. The president sought to end the Vietnam War in a way that would advance what he regularly called "a full generation of peace." In the late 1960s, America's cities were set aflame by the civil rights revolution; in the early '70s, the campuses of the nation's universities were in similar peril. The draft was a target of anti-war protests. The president made a tactical retreat, ending it. He later regretted the move, urging that the draft be restored.

The subject has surfaced since Vietnam but never, until now, with much force. In fact, there are few good arguments against the draft and a surfeit of good ones for restoring it. The most obvious is that we do not have enough men and women in our armed forces. Reliance on reserves and the National Guard is creating strains along the socioeconomic spectrum and is not an endlessly sustainable expedient.

If we are to fight elective wars, as we are now, we must need more men and women on active duty.

But there are other good reasons to return to the draft. I joined the Army in 1957. Members of my family had served in every conflict since the Civil War, and service was expected, as was getting a job, getting married and having a family. We were lower middle class and uneducated. I left high school without a diploma. College was not something to which my family aspired. It never occurred to us that we could go.

The draft shattered class distinctions. It mixed high school dropouts with college graduates, rich with middle class and poor. To be sure, the draftees weren't happy to be in the Army, and they were even less happy to be rubbing shoulders with those of us who volunteered. There was friction from basic training through advanced training and, with lessening

heat, into assignment to our permanent duty stations. Name-calling was a regular feature of our lives: We were "liars," "losers," "GIRBS" (GI rat bastards).

We had our own names for the draftees. But the educated learned to value those without college degrees, and the uneducated, helped by the GI Bill, discovered that higher learning might be within reach after all.

This homogenizing process didn't end with education. It extended to the broadening of cultural horizons. I learned to appreciate Bach and Handel listening to the records of a draftee friend. He enjoyed my rendition of "The Duke of Earl" from the center of our hooch near Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

Class lines blurred and so did racial lines. The military did more to advance the cause of equality in the United States than any other law, institution or movement. Not for nothing did "Bro" come into common usage in the Vietnam era. "Who sheds his blood with me shall be my brother."

The draft furthered the work begun during the Civil War. It advanced the business of making us one people. The draftees may not have liked being pulled away from the careers that awaited them and being thrown in with people they probably wouldn't have associated with otherwise, but over the two-year span of their service, there were sea changes. The disfavored became the committed, became leaders who demanded the best of others and especially of themselves. They saluted with a snap indistinguishable from any other.

When they took their discharges and went home, they had an investment in America not shared by those who did not serve. Try to find a draftee who regrets his service to America. After a time they were not "draftees" at all; they were American soldiers — part of the fabric of the nation, committed to its values and their preservation.

The resurrection of the draft, so vitally necessary to restore the depth of rear manpower we need in our force structure,

is self-justifying despite the arguments of a succession of defense secretaries who feel obliged to defend our "volunteer military" with technical arguments that mask political squeamishness.

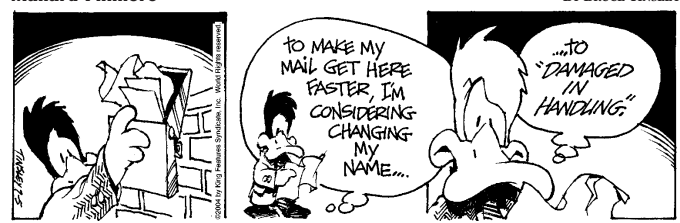
But the nation also needs a draft because it is one proven mechanism to bring unity to our rapidly separating parts. It needs a draft to provide that common civic grammar that encompasses those who have served and their families and friends. It needs a draft to honor, and to even out, the sacrifices we call upon our young to make for our nation.

Finally, America needs this fund of experience to expand the pool of people likely to reach the corridors of power and, when they get there, to bring with them a bone-deep appreciation of the true costs of conflict. This might we reduce the risks of counsel from those who have never had to learn the difference between a war and a cakewalk.

Noel Koch was special assistant to President Nixon from 1971 to 1974. He was assistant secretary of defense and director for special planning in the Defense Department from 1974 to 1988. This column first appeared in *The Washington Post*.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Seeking counsel

MA BOSTON — Lawyers who represent poor clients told the state's highest court they need higher pay to help end what they described as a crisis that's leaving defendants waiting in jail for weeks without representation. The justices questioned whether the court should get involved, but also grilled Assistant Attorney General Ron Kehoe about how to solve the problem.

Spidey-wannabe impaled

FL INVERNESS, Fla. — A 5-year-old boy impersonating Spider-Man crashed into a large statue of an elephant at his grandmother's home, impaling himself on a tusk.

Hunter Helton was recovering at home from the wound to his left hip. He was airlifted to Tampa General Hospital after emergency workers became concerned the ivory tusk might have hit a bone or an artery.

Hunter had was playing at his grandmother's home, imitating some of the Spider-Man's moves. But as he jumped around the den with his siblings and a cousin, the boy lost his balance and fell into a filing cabinet and then hit the heavy mahogany elephant his grandmother had purchased in Africa. Half the elephant's large ivory tusk broke off and got stuck in his body.

Doctors told the boy's mother that Hunter was lucky the injuries weren't more serious.

City snubs smoking

KS LAWRENCE — A new ordinance bans smoking nearly everywhere in Lawrence except private homes, smoke shops, some hotel rooms and open-air patios. Mayor Mike Rundle said most residents want the ban, but the Kansas Licensed Beverage Association promises to fight it. Other opponents are circulating a petition for a citywide vote.

Pared-down potties

CA SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — The City Council decided that \$658,000 for toilets was too much. The council's revised plans for a new downtown public restroom complex without a fancy promenade roof and stairs, a savings of up to \$85,000. The debate centered on how to provide restrooms for locals and tourists without them becoming a central attraction for homeless people.

Getting ready already

DC WASHINGTON — Summer vacation has barely started, but city officials are encouraging families to think about immunizations.

About 5,600 students need their shots updated before school starts in fall. Public school officials are working with city health officials to promote immunizations. Children's Hospital is distributing brochures and school supplies to children who come for well-child visits before July 15.

Tax-free shopping days

GA ATLANTA — From July 29 through Aug. 1, Georgia shoppers will be able to buy cloth-

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ing, school supplies and computers without paying sales tax. The tax holiday exempts up to \$20 per school supply purchased, including dictionaries, notebooks, calculators and other classroom items. It covers clothing and shoes up to \$100 an item and computers up to \$1,500.

Mission accomplished

MO ST. LOUIS — A turnaround firm closed the books on its yearlong, protest-laced quest to restore the St. Louis school district's financial health. It said the system was tens of millions of dollars leaner because of "tough love" moves including school closures and job cuts. Critics said the firm soured the public because it seemed to make decisions in a vacuum.

Tainted mail

KS EDWARDSVILLE, Kan. — A couple has been accused of trying to kill the mayor of a Kansas City suburb and her husband with poisoned mail and cupcakes sent through the mail.

Donna Ozuna-Trout, 47, and Ralph Trout, 57, were charged Thursday with attempted first-degree murder.

They're accused of mailing poisoned food to the home of their neighbors, Mayor Stephanie Eick-

hoff and James Eickhoff, a lieutenant in the Wyandotte County Sheriff's Office.

The state has evidence linking Trout and Ozuna-Trout to the package, which contained a 2-liter bottle of soda and cupcakes spiked with chemicals including lye and antifreeze, prosecutor Nick Tomassick said.

Defense attorney Kevin Baldwin said he believes the evidence against his clients is circumstantial and won't be enough for a conviction.

Governor gets his way

KY FRANKFORT, Ky. — Gov. Ernie Fletcher can run state government under his own spending plan since the Legislature failed to pass a budget, a judge ruled. The state can operate based on the last budget the Legislature passed, but Fletcher can't undertake projects or programs not previously authorized by lawmakers. The Legislature adjourned without passing a budget for the next fiscal year.

Vegas monorail a go

NV LAS VEGAS — The city's monorail is back on track for a scheduled July 15 opening after nearly six months of costly delays.

The \$650 million project was scheduled to launch Jan. 20. A drive shaft problem and software glitches pushed back the starting date.

The monorail will run behind the hotels that line the Las Vegas Strip.

Lynx making comeback

CO DENVER — The number of kittens born to Colorado lynx this year has been confirmed at 30, an encouraging sign in the effort to restore the cat to part of its historic Western range.

So far, biologists know of 46 kittens born to lynx trapped in Canada and released in the southwest corner of the state since 1999.

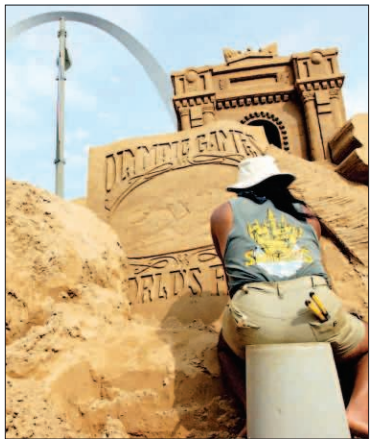
The program's goal is a self-sustaining population of the long-haired, tuft-eared cats that disappeared from Colorado by the 1970s because of trapping, poisoning and development.

"This is just well beyond what many people expected just two years ago," Division of Wildlife spokesman Todd Malmbsbury said.

Crash kills five

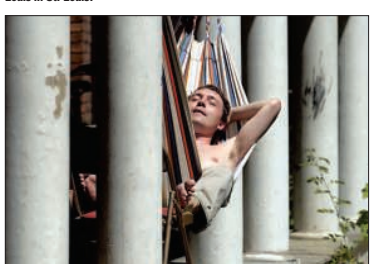
NM WAGON MOUND — A man driving on a revoked license lost control of his truck and flipped it Saturday, killing five people, including the wife and son of a soldier serving in Iraq, police said. The driver, Mario A. Trujillo, 47, was the only survivor of the wreck, officials said. Trujillo was driving on a revoked license, State Police Lt. Pat Werrick said. Trujillo had been at least three prior drunk-driving convictions.

The victims, all from Wagon Mound, were identified as Esther Romero, 30, her son Matthew, 7, and Erminio Cruz, 45. Also killed were Toby Martinez and Billy Moree. Romero and her son were the wife and son of a National Guard sergeant serving in Iraq with the 720th Transportation Company, guard spokeswoman Maj. Kim Lally said.



A 'Fair' entry
Luis in St. Louis.

Alan Matsumoto helps to carve out a 75-ton sand sculpture with a 1904 theme at Fair St.



Lazy summer days
front porch.

Michael Pace of Missoula, Mont., relaxes in a hammock on his home's



Creative mowing

Mark Copeland mows his dad's yard in Sidney, Ohio. The hill poses a challenge, but with two ropes tied to the mower Mark makes it a breeze.



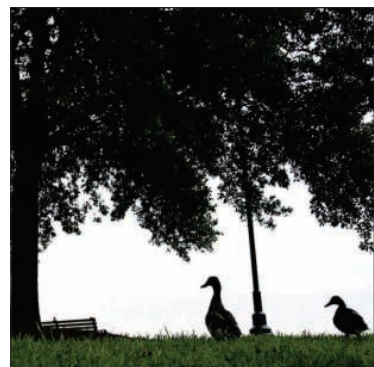
Following footsteps

A keelboat which is the flagship of the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles makes its way up the Missouri River south of Atchison, Kan. The re-enactors are retracing the route of the Lewis and Clark expedition to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the journey to explore the West.



Shadow puppets

A boy is seen silhouetted alongside a woman from the inside of a hot air balloon during the annual Balloon Glow in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



A waddle through the park

Park as clouds overtake the sky in Charleston, S.C.

A pair of mallard ducks walk through Waterfront Park as clouds overtake the sky in Charleston, S.C.



Gone to the dogs

Kristen Cathey, 21 months, from Loveland, Ohio, keeps cool in water set up for the dogs to drink at the Symmes Township (Ohio) Park. The park hosted a Dog Parade to celebrate the new dog run and walking trail at the park.



Reliving history

Smoke fills the air as Union and Confederate re-enactors face off in the Battle of East Cemetery Hill during the 141st Gettysburg Anniversary Battle Re-enactments in Gettysburg, Pa.

A surprising salad

MA HANSON — Dorinda McCann is hopping mad over a toad she found in her salad.

McCann, 34, found the two-inch long toad in a takeout salad bought at a McDonald's in Hanson on June 16.

Both the restaurant's owner and the town health department are investigating, but McCann said she just recently heard from the owner, and she is still awaiting word from the health department.

Town health agent Vincent Flaherty said he is waiting to learn the origin of the toad.

Meanwhile, McCann, her husband, Thomas, and their two daughters, once regular McDonald's customers, have stopped going to the restaurant.

Some people never learn

IL VERSAILLES — Convicted bank robber Gordon A. Bryant might have had a better shot at his last hold-up attempt if he'd shown his face.

The 70-year-old put a stocking over his head before he tried to enter the Farmer's State Bank of Versailles, police said.

The bank had installed a system to buzz in customers after a holdup in February. Suspicious employees refused to unlock the door because the man was wearing the stocking.

Bryant was turned over to the FBI and charged with attempted bank robbery, special agent Nathan Williams said.

The sheriff said Bryant had served prison time for bank robbery and ought to be more competent by now.

"He's 70 years old; you would hope he would have learned by now," Brown County Sheriff Jerry Kempf said.

Big baby pleads guilty

NI MORRISTOWN — A man accused of job hunting at day care centers while clad in a soiled diaper and pink stretch pants will avoid jail time.

Authorities say William Rhode III, 53, unsuccessfully tried to get work at five different centers in four area communities on Feb. 12. He was arrested later that day and had been housed since then in the county jail's psychiatric unit.

Rhode had been indicted on seven counts of child endangerment. The county grand jury said his behavior constituted sexual conduct and that children at all five centers saw him. Rhode was freed after pleading guilty to a disorderly persons charge. He was sentenced to five years probation and must undergo a psychiatric evaluation and receive any recommended counseling. He also must stay away from children.

Chronic hiccups cured

LA NEW ORLEANS — It took more than holding his breath or a scare to cure Shane Shafer of his hiccups.

After seven months of constant, bark-like hiccups, a first-of-its-kind operation has returned normal life to the 50-year-old Texas man.

Shafer's speech is now a hoarse whisper — a side effect of the nerve stimulator implanted in Shafer's chest, one generally used to treat epilepsy.

But for the first time since November, he can eat, sleep and talk without a bark-like hiccup every three to four seconds.

In about 4 percent of patients, the device itself can cause hiccups. That wasn't really a worry, Lori Shafer said: "Nothing could have made them worse."

Police officer sentenced

NH DOVER — A former University of New Hampshire police officer has been sentenced to at least 20 years in prison after pleading guilty to molesting young boys.

Carl Sonne, 63, pleaded guilty to 15 molestation and pornography charges involving nine boys under the age of 13. The boys were under his care at his Rochester home.

He was sentenced to 20-to-40 years in prison.

7 defrauded banks

FL PENSACOLA — Seven people pleaded guilty to creating and cashing counterfeit checks that defrauded 12 banks of nearly \$10 million.

The defendants entered their pleas before U.S. District Judge Robert Vinson. Each faces up to 60 years in prison and fines totaling \$2 million.

The defendants, operating in 22 states, cashed their phony checks using fake identification, said U.S. Attorney Gregory Miller.

Sentencing was set on different days beginning Aug. 11 and lasting through October. Miller said the investigation was continuing and more indictments were expected.

Celebrating the chicken

RI LITTLE COMPTON — It's a celebration fit for a chicken.

The Little Compton Historical Society elected this year to recognize 150 years of the Rhode Island Red, a breed of chicken first developed here.

The society was calling its annual family day Farm Day this year because it includes a tribute to the chicken and to local agriculture.

The Red, now the official state bird, got its start when William Tripp bought a red cock off a whaling ship and bred it with his dung hill hawl.

The Little Compton celebration included the production of a CD of chicken-themed songs.

No more predictions

AL SLAPOUT — Beulah Farmer, 75, is selling her Twin Pines Grocery. It was the site of a straw poll that drew political strategists and journalists trying to predict who was going to be the next governor or even president. Voters in the rural voting district were known for an uncanny ability to predict the outcome of elections.

Closing center's doors

MD CROWNSVILLE — Crownsville Hospital Center is shutting its doors after almost a century, officials said. That will leave Maryland with only two primary residential facilities for the mentally ill. State Health Secretary Nelson Sabatini says the closure will create a more efficient system for treating the mentally ill and save the state \$12 million in annual operating costs.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the lower 50s.

Britain, Ireland: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid to upper 60s and lows in the mid 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower to mid 80s and lows in the upper 50s.

France: Partly cloudy. High temperatures will be in the mid 70s with lows in the mid 50s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms early. High temperatures will be in the low 70s with lows in the mid 50s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy with periods of rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid to upper 70s with lows in the mid to upper 50s.

Hungary: Partly cloudy with light morning rainshowers. Highs in the low to mid 80s with lows in the mid 60s.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s with lows in the mid to upper 60s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s with lows in the lower 70s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s with lows in the lower to mid 60s.

Norway: Mostly cloudy with isolated afternoon rainshowers. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 40s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s and low 90s with lows in the lower 60s to lower 70s.

Turkey: Sunny. Highs in the mid 80s in the north and inland over 90s elsewhere. Lows in the mid 50s inland and lower to mid 70s elsewhere.

KEY: Sunny, Pt. cly, Mostly cly, Cloudy, Showers, Tstorms, Rain, Rain/snow, Snow, Cold frnt, Warm frnt, Trough, Occluded, S, Salty frnt, L, High

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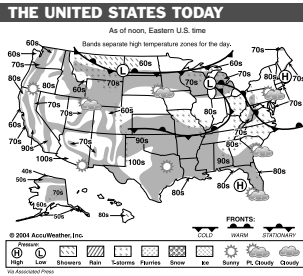
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SUN & MOON

Sunrise (London)	0453	Today	0444	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	0524	0524	0525	
Sunset (London)	2121	2121	2120	
Sunset (Frankfurt)	2137	2137	2136	

Last of New moon First of Full moon



Scheduled to ETS or PCS?

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

Your Stripes. Your Story. Get it Daily.
STARS & STRIPES.

FACES 'N' PLACES

Kracker gone country

On the strength of toppling Celine Dion, Kid Rock's DJ teams with Kenny Chesney

BY DAN NAILEN
Salt Lake Tribune

Billboard magazine, the music industry's business bible, has charts dedicated to virtually every genre and subcategory under the sun, and it's no surprise that the reigning queen of "Adult Contemporary Mainstream" until this year was power balladeer Celine Dion.

What is surprising, however, is who knocked Ms. Titanic off her perch — the man known to attentive

fans as Uncle Kracker, to his family as Matt Shaffer and to most others as Kid Rock's DJ. His cover of Dobie Gray's pop-soul hit "Drift Away," featuring an appearance by Gray himself, managed to eclipse "My Heart Will Go On" earlier this year.

Not too shabby for a guy who didn't seem destined for a solo career, given that his day job in Kid Rock's Twisted Brown Trucker Band kept him pent up behind two turntables for years. But once Kid Rock broke through, Kracker's own skills as a writer of easy-to-swallow, country-tinted pop-rock came to the attention of record-label executives. Now he's touring with country star Kenny Chesney in support of his third album, "72 and Sunny."

Given Kid Rock's heart-on-sleeve love of country, it's natural that fellow Michigan native and best friend Kracker loves the twangy stuff, too. But the No. 1 success of his duet with Chesney on "When the

Sun Goes Down" is remarkable considering the hard-rock circles Kracker ran in earlier.

Talking to Kracker, though, it becomes clear he was always a country boy.

"They seem like they are two totally different worlds that seem so far apart, but they are really not," Kracker said, describing the difference between the rock world and country community. "I like to say, 'It's the same dance, different song.'"

"More people like country music than think they do. Some of those people just don't know they like country music. If you ask people if they like The Eagles, I don't think I could find one person to say, no ... And if they weren't from California, they would call them country. I'd like to take people to someone like Jerry Jeff

"... [T]hese Kenny Chesney kids don't scare me."

Uncle Kracker

On touring as an opening act for duet partner Chesney

Walker and ask, 'Do you like that? You do? That's country.'"

Kracker's music would not appear to be country at first listen, but it can easily fit next to the crossover country acts sharing the bill, Chesney and Rascal Flatts. Now that he's had three albums and a handful of hits, Kracker feels good about getting on stage with anyone. Playing for a country audience isn't too difficult, he said.

"At first, I didn't really know what to expect, but I've opened up for people like Hank Williams Jr., and I've had to play for a much older and much more stubborn crowd," Kracker said. "So these Kenny Chesney kids don't scare me."



Uncle Kracker arrives at the 39th annual Academy of Country Music Awards at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino in Las Vegas in May. After gaining recognition as Kid Rock's DJ, Kracker is making his mark on the adult contemporary and country music charts. Said Kracker, "They seem like they are two totally different worlds that seem so far apart, but they are really not. ... More people like country music than think they do."

Refusing to show 'Fahrenheit'

The president of a company that owns movie theaters in Iowa and Nebraska is refusing to show director Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11."

R.L. Fridley, owner of Des Moines-based Fridley Theatres, says the controversial documentary incites terrorism.

Fridley said in an e-mail message to company managers that the company does not "play political propaganda films from either the right or the left."

"Our country is in a war against an enemy who would destroy our way of life, our culture and kill our people," Fridley wrote.

"These barbarians have shown through (the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001) and the recent beheadings that they will stop at nothing. I believe this film emboldens them and divides our country even more."



Moore

"Fahrenheit 9/11" won best picture at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival and has grossed millions of dollars at the box office.

'Simple Life' mom upset

The Arkansas farm family that hosted heiress Paris Hilton and her friend Nicole Richie for the last season of "The Simple Life" says life has not always been easy since the show aired.

Albert and Janet Leding of Altus took in the two in while Fox television crews filmed the glamorous pair cleaning chicken coops and examining cows. This season they are driving a recreation vehicle from Florida to California on "The Simple Life 2."

The Ledings say they have received phone calls and dozens of friendly letters since the first season aired. But mom Janet Leding says one message hurt



Hilton

her feelings.

When Entertainment Weekly magazine asked Hilton last month if she kept in touch with the Ledings, she replied, "I changed my number."

Leding wonders why.

"She made us sound like we were trying to stalk her," Janet Leding said. "Who's been calling her? We talked to them a couple of times right after they left. Nicole — I talked to her about three times. We weren't trying to call them all the time. We don't care one way or other."

Great White's unfortunate gig

The rock band whose pyrotechnics sparked a fire that killed 100 people was booked to play an outdoor concert Sunday coinciding with the nearby July 4 fireworks show for St. Petersburg, Fla.

Great White's concert is set to begin an hour before the fireworks start going off three blocks away, a backdrop that club owner and concert promoter John Claude Bodzick considered ironic when booking the date.

"I don't want people to get the wrong

idea, that I arranged for this date," Bodzick said. "July 4th was the only date left."

Big Easy: 'Hollywood South'

A basketball film starring Ben Affleck is among a number of major film and television projects to be shot in the New Orleans area, prompting the city and state to launch an effort to earn the Big Easy another nickname: "Hollywood South."

In the two years since the state of Louisiana created a tax break for film companies, the New Orleans area has attracted more than \$200 million in such projects, Mayor Ray Nagin said Friday.

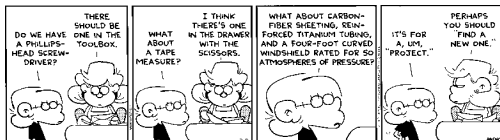
"We are attracting major motion pictures to our city," Nagin said. "There's so much work we're not able to train individuals quickly enough, so we're importing way too much talent."

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Affleck

Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



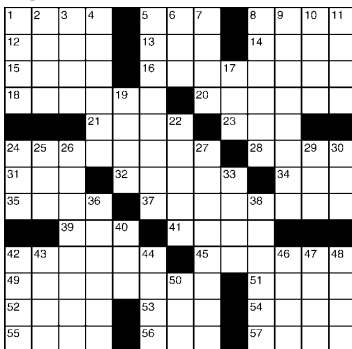
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49 "Gosh!"
51 Academic
52 Unoriginal one
53 Reply (Abbr.)
54 Wrong
55 Colonial sealer
56 Astronaut
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57 Highway section

Answer to Previous Puzzle



Down

1 Office shape

7-5

CRYPTOQUIP

ENHG Z OHAVKG XV
LAPXGS BKQBP XG Z
OQT. WNZW RXS NW TH

LZBBHU Z TZA AKKR T.ZEB.
Saturday's Cryptquip: PAPA WAS A REALLY HUGE FAN OF NEW ORLEANS PARTIES. HE RENAMED HIMSELF MARTY GRAU.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: T equals B

acing the future

With time and money running out, Tyson fighting for last chance at glory

By TIM DAHLBERG

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Mike Tyson was sprawled on his back on the canvas, not the kind of place you want to be if you're a fighter, much less the former baddest man on the planet.

A day after his 38th birthday, his back was in spasms and his face was contorted in pain.

Tyson wanted his sparring session this day to be a good one. Two visiting writers were watching and he was determined to be impressive.

Instead, he was a bit embarrassed about how it ended.

"Sorry you had to see something bad," he said. "I really wanted to box good for you guys."

Tyson has a lot to apologize for, but there was nothing to be sorry about this day at the Central Boxing Club near downtown Phoenix.

He had gone five hard rounds with two rugged sparring partners before the back spasms he had felt earlier in the day while running flared up. So he quit in the middle of the sixth round.

It was only the third day of sparring in his latest comeback — this one July 30 against a British heavyweight of dubious distinction named Danny Williams. Tyson's timing wasn't always there, but he showed there still might be enough left in his aging body to be a factor in today's fractured heavyweight ranks.

Mike Tyson, right, listens to trainer Freddie Roach, left, between sparring rounds during his workout, Thursday at the Central Boxing Club, in Phoenix. Tyson is training for his comeback bout against Danny Williams, on July 30.



At least his sparring partner thought so.

"No one has power like Mike Tyson," said Timur Ibrahimov, a Uzbekistan heavyweight who went the first three rounds with Tyson.

"And I've never seen anybody with his speed."

Tyson's power and speed have seldom been questioned in the 18 years since he first won the heavyweight title.

It's the other things, mainly his bizarre ways both in and out of the ring.

Tyson has served time for rape, bitten Evander Holyfield's ear, tried to break another fighter's arm and threatened to eat Lennox Lewis' children. He's wasted away some \$300 million, owes \$38 million to various creditors, and is basically broke.

Despite what a British tabloid reported, though, he's not homeless.

"I told them I felt like I was homeless, not that I was," he said.

Sitting in the gym's dressing room, with sweat running down his face and chest, he tries to explain a life lived in constant turmoil, always on the edge of disaster.

"I've come to the conclusion I've had a bad psychological opinion of myself," Tyson said. "I never realized how many people were pulling for me, wanted me to do well. It was too much pressure for me. I didn't know how to handle it. I wanted people to think I'm a normal guy."

"I'm a maniac, but I'm a good

guy," he added. "I don't know if the two intertwine, but that's the real deal."

A contradiction? Sure, but Tyson's whole life has been a contradiction.

On this day, he talked about living a normal life, taking care of his five children and giving up most of the vices that always seemed to distract him.

He celebrated his birthday by taking a big bite out of a cake before it was even cut. He thought about going to a strip club to celebrate, but then began wondering how his children would feel and decided against it.

He's living in a man's two-bedroom house in Phoenix where he tends to his pigeons at 4 a.m. every day, then goes running.

The Bentleys are gone, there's no entourage to speak of and Tyson insists he's trying to live a clean life.

"I'm trying not to say bad things about anybody, or use bad language. It's part of my habit of being a good person," he said.

Asked how long that had been going on, Tyson replied: "This is new, very new."

Tyson's latest comeback is driven by money — or, more specifically, a lack of it. A bankruptcy reorganization plan filed last month in New York calls for him to fight up to seven times over the next three years to pay off his debts.

That plan still has to be approved by a judge, who might have some second thoughts after looking at Tyson's recent record.

He's fought only twice in the last three years, getting knocked out by Lewis in eight rounds and knocking out Clifford Etienne in 49 seconds — and has seemed to want to spend his time playing instead of fighting.

He senses now, perhaps, that time is running out, and that this comeback may be for real or there will be no more.

"I don't care how much money I blew," Tyson said. "The reason



Mike Tyson says he is done with the chaos that enveloped his life and career and is serious about one last boxing comeback.

why I'm in my situation is I get in one of my bratty moods and things happen. But if I fight for a year I'll get \$80 million. If I fight for a year I'll break every record of any athlete making money in one year."

Fighting for even a year is a big if for Tyson. Fighting for three more years is almost inconceivable to those who have seen him on the road to self-destruction.

Incredibly, Tyson has really beaten a top fighter for 15 years, but with his fearsome punching power it's entirely likely he could become a champion again. There's talk about fighting WBO champion Lamont Brester or light heavyweight champion Antonio Tarver, or perhaps a third fight with Holyfield.

"I'm like Babe Ruth," Tyson said. "I'm not going to fight until I drop, but I'm going to fight until I almost drop."

Mike Tyson
Boxer

heavyweight champion Antonio Tarver, or perhaps a third fight with Holyfield.

"I'm like Babe Ruth," Tyson said. "I'm not going to fight until I drop, but I'm going to fight until I almost drop."

Tyson's trainer Freddie Roach swears this is a new Mike Tyson, unlike the Mike Tyson who decided he would rather party than train in the week before his fight 17 months ago with Etienne. That Tyson disappeared for days, said he was sick and couldn't fight, then arrived in Memphis, Tenn., with a bizarre tattoo on the left side of his face.

"Bankruptcy is good for Mike," Roach said. "He's humble and living the simple life. The way he's going I don't think there's a champion he can't beat."

Others aren't so convinced that Tyson can change his ways. Tyson hugged Williams at a news conference this week instead of bawling with him as he did with Lewis, but that didn't stop Kentucky Gov. Ernie Fletcher from coming out

against the fight in Louisville.

Fletcher said he intends to reorganize the state's athletic commission because it quietly licensed Tyson, saying he was thinking of "the image of Kentucky."

In the gym on this day, Tyson hardly looked like the kind of fighter who was going to cause harm to a state's reputation.

His entourage has shrunk to one friend who doubles as a bodyguard. When the money ran out, the others left almost as quickly.

"I scared a lot of my friends away from me," he said. "I gave them a reason not to be around me. But you had others who were just there for the handouts."

The talk in the dressing room went back to the times when Tyson dominated the heavyweight division. He was reminded about how he proudly paraded around the casino of the Las Vegas Hilton with the green WBC title belt after becoming the youngest heavyweight champion at the age of 20.

People are still strangely drawn to see him, expecting either a train wreck, a savage knockout or both.

To be ring-side at Freedom Hall on July 30 will set you back \$1,000, and, if past history is any indication, there will be plenty of people willing to pay it.

Tyson will pocket \$2 million, with the rest of his purse going to pay debts that include \$18 million to the IRS and \$9 million to his ex-wife, Monica. If he's successful against the unheralded Williams, and few doubt that he will be, he'll fight in October against a tougher opponent.

With Tyson, of course, the best plans often come apart. Now, though, there is an urgency.

"You see me right now, my back is in pain," he said. "I wouldn't be getting up early in the morning and putting myself through this pain if I wasn't serious."

"I'm feeling pretty good about myself and when I do become successful, it will be the most successful boxing story in the world."

Sharapova takes a quantum leap

WIMBLEDON, England — Get ready for the Maria Sharapova marketing blitz.

You'll see the new Wimbledon champion on all the talk shows, on sports and glamour magazine covers, in print ads and TV commercials.

She is 17 and about to become the world's most coveted female sports star.

Born in Russia, made in America, blessed with a fashion model's looks, a champion's game and poise far beyond her years, Sharapova is a marketing maven's dream.

"I hope it doesn't change the person I am

Steve Wilstein

right now, because I really don't want that to happen," Sharapova said after her universe was unalterably transformed Saturday by a 6-1, 6-4 rout of two-time defending champion Serena Williams in the Wimbledon final.

"I already told a few people, 'If I suddenly, then hit me in the head, please.'"

Serena and Venus Williams gave women's tennis a huge boost and made their own considerable mark in fashion when they became champions. Anna Kournikova did the same without even winning. Now it's Sharapova's turn to grab the spotlight.

Sudden fame and fortune have a way of spinning many a teen's head out of control, but there is something about Maria Sharapova that suggests she may be immune to the perils of stardom. Ask her what her most significant attribute is, and she is quick to say it is her mental fortitude.

"I'm just a very tough person when I go on the court," she said. "I just love to win, and I want to fight."

She showed that over and over again in Wimbledon, outlasting her in rallies, sending her scrambling side to side and pinning her behind the baseline with deep, flat groundstrokes into the returners.

When Williams returned to court, Sharapova craftily lobbed over her head or angled two-fisted backhands past her.



Maria Sharapova, 17, displays the looks and the hardware that make her a marketing maven's dream.

No one could tell from watching her that Sharapova was also fighting off a sore throat that had her in tears the night before, worrying she might be too sick to play.

Rarely has anyone, even Venus Williams, ever countered Serena's pace with greater pace and so completely dominated her in a match.

Never has anyone this young, playing in her first Grand Slam final, so thoroughly crushed a defending champion as Sharapova did in the 30-minute opening set.

Her coach, Robert Lansdorp, 65, watched from his home in Torrance, Calif., unable to come to Wimbledon this year because of a bad hip. He coached Tracy Austin, turning her into the youngest U.S. Open champion when she won the first of her two titles at 16 in 1979. He also coached Pete Sampras for many years until he was 20, as well as Lindsay Davenport.

"Maria has the same composure, the same determination as Tracy," Lansdorp said by telephone. "Like all the great champions, Maria has no fear."

Maybe her whole cinematic journey through life touched

her up.

Born in Siberia, Sharapova came to the United States from Russia at age 7 with her father, Yuri, who had \$700 and a dream of getting her a scholarship to the Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy in Bradenton, Fla. Her mother, Yelena, unable to get a visa, had to stay behind for two years.

Bollettieri's academy was the home of another Russian prodigy, Kournikova, and it had been the tennis boot camp for Andre Agassi, Monica Seles, Jim Courier and others. Sharapova didn't get in right away. When she did, she had to endure a couple of unhappy years living in a dorm with much older girls before she was reunited with her family.

She slugged away, and then, at age 10, began going for two-week training trips in California with Lansdorp.

"I wasn't the kind of person that wanted to practice and hit ball after ball after ball," Sharapova said. "I wasn't consistent enough. When I came to Robert, he was like, 'OK, this girl has to hit ball after ball after ball until this basket is finished.' When I looked in the basket, there were about 1,000 balls in there."

Lansdorp didn't have any fancy academy, just a rented court, and he drilled shots hard and deep to Sharapova.

"I hit the ball with so much pace against her, a foot from the baseline, and she got to the point where pace didn't bother her," Lansdorp said. "That's what everyone saw today against Serena. She took Serena's pace and hit it back even harder. I didn't think she'd win Wimbledon at this age, but I knew she had the heart and mind of a champion. She knows how to play almost by instinct."

Then there was the discussion they all had about whether Sharapova should play left-handed or right-handed. She was generally right-handed, but could serve and hit forehands both ways.

"It was a toss-up, but we decided to settle on her serving and hitting forehands 'right-handed,'" Lansdorp said. "But Maria hit a left-handed passing shot past [Daniela] Hantuchova last week and nobody could believe it. That girl has a lot of talents."

Steve Wilstein is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at: swilstein@ap.org

Armstrong survives nervous first stage

By JOHN LEICESTER
The Associated Press

CHARLEROI, Belgium — Lance Armstrong played it safe and Jean Kirsipuu was the winner. It was mission accomplished for both riders in Sunday's first full stage of the Tour de France.

Saving himself for later stages, Armstrong finished comfortably back in the field. He is focused on winning a record sixth straight Tour, not scrapping for wins in the hazardous and fast-paced early stages of the three-week race.

A final all-out burst of speed secured Kirsipuu's victory in the 125.5-mile trek that featured roads turned treacherous by rain.

There were crashes, crowds, wind, punctures and a mighty finishing sprint to contend with — all factors that make the Tour's first week the part that Armstrong relishes least.

Armstrong finished 48th on Sunday and is third overall. He will be looking to secure victory in the mountain climbs and time trials that start later.

But for sprinter like Kirsipuu, an Estonian, the early stages are their strength, the reason they come to the Tour even though they have no prospect of overall victory.

"The sprint was incredible for me," Kirsipuu said. "I am really, really happy."

The overall leader's yellow jersey stayed on the young shoulders of Fabian Cancellara, a 23-year-old Swiss rider who won the debut time trial on Saturday.

There were several crashes, the first less than nine miles from the start in Liege, Belgium. It threw off Italian rider Mario Cipollini, making his Tour comeback after four years away, as well as Spain's Oscar Sevilla and French rider Guillaume Auger. They all rejoined the race, although Sevilla needed a new bike.

Austria's Bernhard Eisel also crashed, touching wheels with a rider in front and falling heavily. He barrel-rolled across the wet tarmac and skidded to a stop in the road. Eisel was not picked himself up to resume racing.

Another crash less than three miles from the finish in Charleroi, also in Belgium, unseated France's Nicolas Jalabert.

For Armstrong and other contenders for the Tour crown, avoiding such accidents is a priority. Armstrong rode much of the race with the head of the pack and riders from his U.S. Postal Service squad. Their game plan was to "stay at the front, everybody together, try to protect Lance. We are sure there's no big breakaways," teammate George Hincapie said. "Mainly to stay out of trouble."

Federer: 24-match streak on grass second to Borg

FEDERER, FROM BACK PAGE

Federer, 22, is the first men's champion to successfully defend his title since Pete Sampras won his seventh and final championship in 2000. His 24-match grass-court winning streak is the second longest ever, behind only the 41 consecutive matches won by five-time Wimbledon champion Bjorn Borg.

It was the first Wimbledon men's final in 22 years between the No. 1 and No. 2 seeded players, and it featured a contrast in styles between the cool, velvet Federer and the brash, power-hitting American.

The match was twice suspended by rain, the first time for 36 minutes with Federer leading 3-2 on serve in the first set. The second

stoppage — which came with Roddick up a break at 4-2 in the third and lasted 40 minutes — changed the momentum for good in Federer's favor.

After the break, Federer — who had been broken four times until then — won 24 of 28 points on his serve to go into the fourth set.

The match swung Federer's way when he broke back for 4-1 in the third set, returning a 137 mph serve on break point and forcing Roddick to miss a forehand. Federer played at his best in the tiebreaker, getting two aces, a forehand crosscourt winner, a forehand volley and a backhand passing shot down the line. Roddick walked to the changeover with his head down.

Federer got into trouble on his serve in the fourth game of the fourth set, going down

0-40, but managed to save four break points to hold. He saved two more break points in the sixth game, with Roddick going for forehand winners but missing on both. Federer then went ahead for good, breaking Roddick at love for 4-3.

Roddick came out firing in the first set, looking like he was trying to blow Federer off the court. In his first service game, he delivered a 128 mph winner, a 127 mph ace, another 127 mph ace, a double fault and a 145 mph ace.

Throwing his entire body into every forehand, Roddick broke in the next game, teeing off on a second serve and hitting an inside-out winner. That was enough to decide the first set.

The momentum swung back and fourth in the second set, with Federer winning the first four games and Roddick the next four.

Schilling saves day for weary Red Sox

By CHARLES ODOM
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Boston's bullpen needed a break, and the entire Red Sox team needed a lift.

Curt Schilling delivered. Schilling pitched a six-hitter and Doug Mizzell broke open a close game with a grand slam to power the Red Sox to a 6-1 victory over the Atlanta Braves on Saturday night. Boston snapped a four-game losing streak.

"We desperately needed to win," manager Terry Francona said. "Hopefully, tonight is the start of a real good run for us." Johnny Damon and Nomar Garciaparra each had three hits, including a homer. The Red Sox had dropped seven games, including back-to-back losses in extra innings to the New York Yankees and the Braves the previous two nights.

"Our bullpen was worn out," Schilling said. "We needed innings out of me to stay fresh."

Schilling responded with his 81st career complete game, and second of the season. "He understood the situation," Francona said. "He intended to finish that game from pitch one."

Schilling (11-4) struck out 10 and walked one. With runners on first and third and one out in the fifth, Schilling struck out Rafael Furcal and Nick Green. He retired the last 10 batters he faced.

"He just had us all out of whack," Braves first baseman Adam LaRoche said.

Garciaparra is 6-for-9 since missing Thursday night's epic game at Yankee Stadium to rest his sore Achilles' tendon, a decision which drew quite a public



Boston starter Curt Schilling delivered his second complete game of the season on Saturday as the Red Sox beat the Atlanta Braves 6-1.

outcry in Boston. In two games, he has lifted his batting average from .235 to .286, prompting suggestions that the much-criticized day off in New York was needed.

"I wish you would go with that," the smiling Francona said. "That would be great."

Garciaparra missed the first 57 games of the season with right Achilles' tendinitis and was activated on June 9.

"I'm just glad to be playing," he said.

"That was a great win. You have to give a lot of credit to Curt Schilling. He pitched unbelievably. A complete game, giving the bullpen a rest, that was huge."

A Turner Field record crowd of 51,831 included a strong contingent of Red Sox fans. The previous record was 51,638 for the 2002 season opener against Philadelphia.

The Braves (39-41) failed in their attempt to return to .500 for the first time since June 11. They

are assured of finishing the 81-game midpoint of the schedule under .500 for the first time since 1990.

The Red Sox cut New York's lead to 7½ games in the AL East.

"These guys don't give up," Garciaparra said. "We believe in ourselves. Today was an example."

Even as Boston has struggled, Schilling has been a consistent leader. Each of his last four victories have followed a Red Sox loss.

"On this club I didn't expect to be stopping a lot of streaks," Schilling said.

Boston was a modest 16-14 in May and 11-14 in June, but Schilling has pitched well. He's 7-1 in his past nine starts and ranks among the AL leaders in victories, strikeouts, ERA and innings pitched.

Schilling led only 2-0 before the Red Sox chased Braves starter John Thomson (6-7) with five runs on two homers — including Mirabel's second career slam — in the sixth inning.

Maddux waits out rain for 29th win

Cubs hold off crosstown rivals 4-2

By RICK GANO
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Greg Maddux patiently waited out the rain, throwing a ball into a clubhouse net to keep his arm loose and playing cards to relax.

On a muggy and wet day at Wrigley Field, Maddux pitched around three rain delays to get his 29th victory Saturday in a game finally called after 5½ innings when conditions became unplayable.

Maddux got some help from Sammy Sosa, who homered through a downpour and later made a sliding catch in the slippery outfield as the Cubs beat the White Sox 4-2.

"It never bothered me to sit down for an hour as long as I can throw once or twice," Maddux said.

"You only have to do it once to know you can do it. It's just like a long inning."

After the game was delayed a fourth time for 77 minutes after the top of the sixth, umpires inspected the field, as did managers Ozzie Guillen of the White Sox and Dusty Baker of the Cubs, and the decision to end the game was made.

The four delays totaled 3 hours, 2 minutes.

"By that time we went on the field it was ridiculous," Cubs second baseman Todd Walker said. "It was just unplayable. If we had gone out again, it would have been a mess."

Guillen and Baker agreed they didn't want to risk an injury, especially with more rain in the forecast.

Crew chief Charlie Reliford said that after consulting with the

managers and the grounds crew he reached the conclusion that "the chances of fixing it were nil."

"It was like quicksand out there," Baker said.

"Ozzie didn't want to get anybody hurt, either. Certainly he wanted to win the game and I wanted to win the game, but this was game winning taking a risk of losing somebody for a long period of time."

Guillen didn't have the final say, but agreed with Reliford that the game should be stopped.

"I sound like a coward. I'd rather get this done than get one of my players or Cubs players hurt. You can't even walk on that field," Guillen said.

Returning to the mound after delays of 13, 15 and 59 minutes, Maddux (7-6) allowed five hits and two runs in 5½ innings. He was able to confine Baker when he was OK to return after each delay.

"I've known Greg for three months and Greg has known me for 38 years," Baker said.

Sosa's 14th homer of the season and 553rd of his career came through a driving rain and cleared the outfield wall just before the game was halted for a third time in the bottom of the fifth.

"By that time the Cubs had a 4-0 lead and the infield had become a muddy quagmire with treacherous footing. And even after the cleanup crew came out trying to get the game was halted for a third time in the bottom of the fifth."

"You want to win, but unfortunately the conditions were pretty bad," White Sox catcher Sandy Alomar said. "You can't afford to lose several players."

Boston's Foulke takes off cap, puts end to flag flap

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The flag flap is over for Keith Foulke.

After a personal letter from Commissioner Bud Selig, plus talks between the players' union and baseball management as the Fourth of July approached, Foulke reluctantly packed away his Boston cap that featured a patch of the American flag.

"I still think I should be able to wear it," the Red Sox reliever said this week at Yankee Stadium.



Briefs

um. "But I don't want to do anything that would cost the team."

Foulke was the only player in the majors with his own such hat. About two weeks after Foulke found out baseball planned to put "Spider-Man 2" ads on the bases — "That really chapped me," he said — he sent a letter to Selig explaining his position. The commissioner wrote back in a note dated June 3.

"It's not like I was trying to call attention to myself," he said. "I'm a patriotic person, and it's just a personal thing I wanted to do. It was only about an inch square, on the left side, and a lot of people didn't even notice it."

The commissioner's office, however, did. Soon after, Foulke said, he began getting letters from Bob Watson, vice president of on-field operations, saying the cap violated baseball's standard uniform code.

According to the sport's labor agreement, players cannot make individual changes to hats, jerseys

and anything else they wear.

The issue came up during the 2002 NL playoffs when San Francisco pitcher Jason Christian was told he could not continue writing Darryl Kile's number "57" on his cap in tribute to his late former teammate.

And in this case, the rule made Foulke's cap illegal.

"It's the definition of a uniform that we're going after," Watson's assistant, Matt Kendrick, said.

About two weeks after Foulke found out baseball planned to put "Spider-Man 2" ads on the bases — "That really chapped me," he said — he sent a letter to Selig explaining his position. The commissioner wrote back in a note dated June 3.

"I agree with and admire the pa-

triotic sentiments expressed in your letter," Selig wrote. "While I cannot imagine anyone having an objection to our American flag on a player's hat, we feel it is crucial that we maintain this across-the-board policy."

"Unfortunately, if we allow one player to add the flag, our ability to enforce the rule will be diminished, he added.

While baseball told Foulke that he could be fined or suspended, it did not threaten him with an immediate penalty or ever impose one.

On June 24 in a game against Minnesota at Fenway Park, Foulke wore his special hat one last time. He doesn't plan to put it on again, not wanting to risk raising any red flags for the Red Sox.

This Sunday, though, Foulke will have an American flag on his cap — as will all major leaguers as part of baseball's Fourth of July celebration.

"I think it's great that we do it on Opening Day and July Fourth and 9-11," Foulke said. "But sol-

diers are fighting and dying every day, and I think I should be allowed to honor them by wearing that hat."

Jackson recalled, then injured

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Los Angeles Dodgers recalled Edwin Jackson from Triple-A Las Vegas to start Saturday night's game against the Anaheim Angels, but the right-hander didn't last long. Jackson had to leave with two outs in the second because of what the Dodgers called a mild strain of his pitching elbow, leaving him day-to-day.

Jackson, 20, was 6-4 with a 5.29 ERA in 15 starts with Las Vegas.

Bone chips sideline Matthews

CINCINNATI — Cincinnati Reds left-hander Mike Matthews will have surgery Tuesday to remove bone chips from his elbow.

The Reds placed Matthews (2-1) on the disabled list Saturday, and recalled right-hander Ryan Wagner from Triple-A Louisville.



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Mets rally, beat Yanks at Shea

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Mets mashed out of the dugout and mobbed Shane Spencer at first base, jumping up and down in jubilation. It could have been a scene after the final out of the World Series.

This one merely put the Mets in position to win the regular-season Subway Series for the first time.

Spencer's bases-loaded dribbler between the mound and first base, a ball that traveled only 40 feet or so, drove in the winning run against his former team, capping an afternoon of comebacks and giving the Mets a thrilling 10-9 victory Saturday over the New York Yankees.

"For us it was a test," Spencer said. "It shows we can play with the best."

Coming a day after the Mets' 11-2 rout, the ending had the season-best crowd of \$5,120 looking ahead to Sunday with shouts of "Sweep!" Fans also took note of the Yankees' three victories over the Boston Red Sox coming in, yelling: "We're not Boston!"

"To sweep 'em would be pretty sweet," Spencer said.

Tony Clark homered twice on the sunny summer afternoon and tied his career high with four hits, but the Yankees wasted leads of 3-1, 6-4 and 8-6. They loaded the bases with two outs in the ninth and were one pitch from taking the lead when John Franco (2-4) went to a 3-0 count on pinch-hitter Jorge Posada.

Posada took a strike, then took another fastball at the knees for strike two, a pitch he thought



New York's Jorge Posada (20), held back by manager Joe Torre, argues a called third strike with home plate umpire Chuck Meriwether. Posada was called out with the bases loaded in the ninth.

should have been ball four. Franco came back with another fastball, this one a smidgen lower. Plate umpire Chuck Meriwether called it strike three.

"It seemed like a lifetime," Franco said of waiting for a call. Posada threw his bat, argued and had to be pushed away by manager Joe Torre. Posada didn't want to talk about the call.

"That was the game basically right there," Mets manager Art Howe said, "because you know who (stopper Mariano Rivera) is coming in if they score there." Cliff Floyd, Ty Wigginton and Richard Hidalgo homered off Jose Contreras, but the Mets made two errors that led to four unearned runs and failed to hold leads of 4-3 and 9-8.

With the score 9-1 all in the bottom of the ninth, Tanyon Sturtze (3-1) walked Kaz Matsui, who had three hits. After Mike Piazza popped out, Floyd walked and Hidalgo was hit by a pitch. That brought up Spencer, whose two-run double in seventh put the Mets ahead 9-8.

Athletics strike for four in ninth to topple Giants

Bonds within one of Henderson's record for walks

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Mark McLemore's tiebreaking RBI single sparked a four-run ninth inning as the Oakland Athletics beat the San Francisco Giants 6-2 on Saturday.

Barry Bonds went 1-for-2 with two walks, snapping his streak of home runs in four straight games in which he had an at-bat. He has 119 walks this season and 2,189 for his career, one shy of Rickey Henderson's record.

Damian Miller's RBI double tied it in the eighth for the A's, who broke it open in the ninth against Matt Herges (4-3).

Justin Duchscherer (4-1) pitched two scoreless innings as Oakland beat its cross-bay rivals for the second time in five games this season.

Cardinals 8, Mariners 1: Jim Edmonds returned to the lineup with a home run and three RBIs, and Jason Marquis (8-4) pitched effectively before and after a 1-hour rain delay.

Albert Pujols hit a two-run homer and Edmonds, making his first start in center field in eight days, went 2-for-3.

Devil Rays 6, Marlins 1: Victor Zambrano (9-4) gave up four hits in seven shutout innings and drove in his first career run.

The visiting Devil Rays improved to 30-10 since May 20 and moved two games over .500 (40-38) for the first time since starting the 2002 season 3-1.

The Marlins have lost four straight and 11 of 15.

Reds 4, Indians 2: Paul Wilson won for the first time in more than a month and D'Angelo Jimenez hit a two-run homer.

Wilson (8-2) held visiting Cleveland to two runs in 6½ innings, allowing eight hits with six strikeouts and two walks, one intentional.

Danny Graves pitched a perfect ninth for his major league-leading 31st save in 38 opportunities.

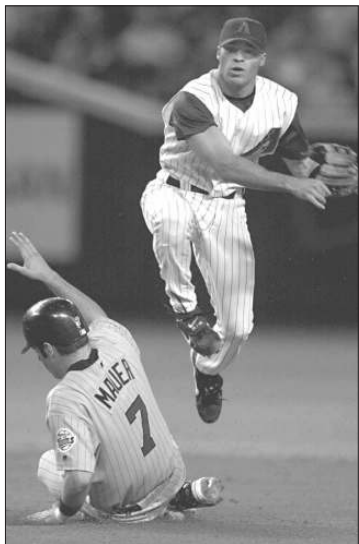
Phillies 7, Orioles 6: Pinch-hitter Tomas Perez hit an RBI single in the eighth inning.

David Bell's two-run homer off Jason Grimsley (3-5) tied it 6-6 in the eighth, and Perez delivered against B.J. Ryan.

Placido Polanco and Mike Lieberthal also homered for the NL East-leading Phillies, who improved to 4-2 in the mid-season-high 14-game homestand.

Astros 10, Rangers 8: Morgan Ensberg hit a grand slam, and Mike Lamb and Raul Chavez each drove in two runs.

Alfonso Soriano and Gary Matthews Jr. both hit three-run homers in the fifth, giving the visiting Rangers a 6-1 lead before the As-



Arizona Diamondbacks second baseman Scott Hairston, right, leaps to avoid sliding Minnesota baserunner Joe Mauer and complete a double play in the fifth inning of Saturday night's game. The Twins won 8-4.

trots came back in the bottom of the inning.

Blue Jays 2, Expos 0: Roy Halladay showed his Cy Young form, pitching seven innings in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Eric Hinske went 4-for-4 and scored twice on RBI singles by Chris Gomez.

Halladay (7-5), winner of the AL Cy Young Award last year, allowed only five hits. He struck out six and walked one.

Rockies 11, Tigers 6: Vinny Castilla had three RBIs and Preston Wilson put an emphatic end to his slump with a two-run homer.

Castilla, who missed Friday's game while attending to a personal matter, was 2-for-4, leaving him two hits short of tying Jorge Orta (1,619) for most by a Mexican-born player.

Padres 5, Royals 4: Adam Eaton took a no-hit bid into the eighth inning, only to have visiting Kansas City rally for four runs in the eighth to tie it. Khalil Greene's sacrifice fly in the bottom of the inning won it for San Diego.

Twins 8, Diamondbacks 4: Doug Mientkiewicz drove in three runs with a home run and double. Mientkiewicz has just five homers all season, but two in the last two games.

Luis Rivas and Joe Mauer also homered for the visiting Twins and Terry Mulholland (1-3) earned his first victory in his first start of the season.

Dodgers 8, Angels 5: Adrian Beltré hit two of his team's four homers, and lost Los Angeles scored in each of the first five innings.

Eric Gagne, the fifth Dodgers pitcher, pitched a perfect ninth to extend his major league record for consecutive saves to 84, including 21 this season.

Pirates 5, Brewers 3: Randall Simon's opposite-field double drove in two runs to break a sixth-inning tie and host Pittsburgh won its eighth in a row.

Jason Bay, coming off an eight-RBI performance in the second game of Friday's doubleheader, added an RBI single to help the Pirates win their ninth in 11 games since dropping 19 of 22.

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Rosales doesn't buckle under Open pressure

BY DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

SOUTH HADLEY, Mass. — A bout of nerves even when she's taking a nap, Jennifer Rosales belted a 3-iron and watched it climb the dangerous ridge on the 18th green until it safely stopped 18 feet from the hole. She slapped hands with her caddy and strolled up the fairway, a rare chance to exhale Saturday at the U.S. Women's Open.

Annikka Sorenstam made a swift charge that would get anyone's attention.

Michelle Wie fired up her legion of fans with shots beyond her years, rocking Orchards Golf Club with the kind of noise that cannot be ignored.

Rosales was never flustered, surging ahead with a 2-under 69 that gave her a three-shot lead over Sorenstam, Meg Mallon and Kelly Robbins at the biggest tournament in women's golf.

"I was kind of nervous at the end a little bit," Rosales said. "It was more adrenalin. It was too strong, because I wanted to make birdies but that gave cushion. But I'm pretty happy the way I ended up."

The real test is how she finishes it.

Rosales was at 7-under 206 and has the outright 54-hole lead for

the first time. Adding to the pressure are the players chasing her — three-time major winner Mallon with her in the final group; former LPGA champion Robbins and Sorenstam right in front of her.

"Annikka is an awesome player," Rosales said. "She's going to try to win this bad. But I told myself, 'Jen, just try and play hard and never look back.'"

Wie was down, but still had an outside shot at becoming the youngest winner of a major.

The 14-year-old from Hawaii recovered from a poor front nine with an array of shots, the most impressive an 8-iron into 6 feet for birdie on the 439-yard 16th hole, the third-longest in Women's Open history.

But it all came undone on the 18th, when her drive bounced into the rough, her approach sailed into the gallery and she three-putted for double bogey and a 71 that left her at 1-under 212, in a tie for seventh with Pat Hurst and three others but still six shots behind Rosales.

Wie has been in contention twice at the Kraft Nabisco Championship, but this major is different.

"Over here, you never know what's going to happen," Wie said. "One thing that never changes is Sorenstam in contention."

The best player in women's

golf recovered from two bogeys on the first four holes with a couple of bursts — back-to-back birdies to make them at even par, then a 20-foot eagle putt on the par-5 13th and a shot out of the rough to 12 feet for birdie on the next hole.

Sorenstam wound up with a 70 and will play in the next-to-last group.

"I didn't get off to the start I wanted, but I kept grinding," Sorenstam said. "One under is pretty good at the U.S. Open on Saturday."

Mallon, born in Massachusetts and beloved everywhere because of her infectious, freckle-faced smile, turned in the best round of the day with a 67 that put her at 209 and in the final group with Rosales.

Sorenstam will play with Robbins, who briefly shared the lead with four birdies on the front nine.

Rachel Teske (70) was at 210, while Michelle Ellis (72) was another stroke behind.

Wie was among 11 players still under par, while 17-year-old Paula Creamer bogeyed the last hole for a 72 that left her at even-par 213.

"It's a great mix of veterans, the No. 1 player in the world and players that want to be a professional some day," Mallon said. "It's going to be a fun day [Sunday]."



Jennifer Rosales, of the Philippines, reacts to sinking a birdie putt on the ninth hole that extended her lead during the third round of the U.S. Women's Open at The Orchards Golf Club in South Hadley, Mass.

Ames, Hensby lead Western

The Associated Press

LEMONT, Ill. — Stephen Ames shot a 7-under 64 for a share of the third-round lead in the Western Open with Mark Hensby.

Ames, from Trinidad and Tobago and now living in Calgary, Alberta, matched Hensby at 9-under 204 on Cog Hill's Dubs-dread Course. Hensby, from Australia, shot a bogey-free 67.

Ames and Hensby better watch their backs, though, because Tiger Woods is making a move. A day after flirting with the cut, Woods rebounded with a 6-under 65 to pull within four shots of the lead.

Starting Ogilvy (68) is one stroke behind the leaders. Stuart Appleby (67) and second-round co-leader Steve Lowery (70) are tied for fourth at two strokes back.

Ames, whose best finish this year was third at the Colonial, closed his bogey-free round with birdies on his last four holes, saving the best for last.

He went from bunker-to-bunker with his second shot, leaving himself almost 50 feet from the pin. But he holed out, and the crowd yelled so loud it could be heard on the opposite side of the course. Ames raised his arms in triumph before climbing out of the trap.

Starting the day a stroke off the lead, Hensby made three birdies on the front nine and a fourth on the par-5 15th to charge to the top.



Stephen Ames raises his arms in celebration as his shot from the bunker finds the hole on No. 18 in the Western Open.

He had to scramble on his last two holes to stay there, making two beautiful up-and-downs that had fellow Aussie and playing partner Ogilvy calling him "Seve Hensby."

Pate on top in Long Island Classic

EAST MEADOW, N.Y. — Jerry Pate took a two-stroke lead into the final round of the Champions Tour's Long Island Classic, shooting a 4-under 66 for a 10-under 130 total.

Pate, the 1978 U.S. Open champion whose PGA Tour career was cut short by a series of shoulder injuries, is in his first year on the tour for players 50 and older.

Bobby Watkins (68) was second, and Tom Jenkins (66) and Mike Hill (67) were another stroke back.

Goosen's lead trimmed to one shot

STRAFFAN, Ireland — U.S. Open champ Retief Goosen shot an even-par 72 to take a one-stroke lead in the European Open. The South African star, ahead by two strokes after two rounds, had a 9-under 207 total.

Report: Jones' ex-coach turned in THG steroid vial

The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — The former coach of three-time Olympic champion Marion Jones was the mystery man who gave anti-doping officials a used syringe filled with a new steroid, touching off the scandal now clouding preparations for the Athens Games, a newspaper reported Saturday.

In a story posted on its Web site, the San Jose Mercury News said that five sources identified Trevor Graham as the coach who submitted a vial of the steroid THG to the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency in June 2003. The newspaper said the sources spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Graham has been questioned by federal agents as part of the Bay Area Laboratory Coaches case, which has led to indictments against four men and doping allegations against several top athletes — including Jones and baseball's Barry Bonds, both of whom repeatedly have denied drug use. Graham long has been suspected as the source of the vial that kick-started a probe of BALCO that already was under way at the time. USADA officials have said for months that a prominent track and field coach supplied them with the syringe and said it came from BALCO, but has refused to name that coach.

U.S. women blank Canada

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Heather Mitts scored off Mia Hamm's corner kick in the 73rd minute to give the U.S. Women's soc-

cer team a 1-0 victory over Canada 1-0 on Saturday night.

The goal, Mitts' first in international play, helped the United States improve to 3-0-1 on its six-game exhibition tour leading up to the Athens Olympics.

Women's wrestling scrapped after Islamic protests

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Bangladesh's first women's wrestling competition was called off moments before the start Sunday following threats from Muslim fundamentalists who termed the event "vulgar and indecent."

Some Islamic groups threatened to storm the venue to block the competition, which drew dozens of wrestlers from across Bangladesh.

Tabir Rahman, general secretary of the Bangladesh Amateur Wrestling Federation, announced the postponement but told The Associated Press, "we will organize it again in a few months time."

Camacho keeps title hopes alive

BILLOXI, Miss. — Hector Camacho unanimously outpointed Clint McNeil in a 10-round middleweight fight Saturday night to keep his world championship hopes alive.

The 42-year-old Camacho (78-5-2) hopes to face WBO junior middleweight champion Daniel Santos.

Golf roundup

Gordon tastes sweet success in Pepsi 400

Nextel Cup star posts back-to-back victories

BY MIKE HARRIS
The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Jeff Gordon has that winning feeling again.

A week ago, it was nearly total domination on the road course at Sonoma. Saturday night, it was a powerful victory in the Pepsi 400 on Daytona International Speedway's big oval, a win that has Gordon thinking about a fifth NASCAR championship.

"Things are feeling pretty darn good right now," Gordon said. "What a way to get momentum and be strong week in and week out on totally different race tracks."

Gordon and Hendrick Motorsports teammate Jimmie Johnson finished 1-2, leaving the favored Dale Earnhardt Jr. duo of Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Michael Waltrip — and everyone else behind.

"Wow! Wow! Wow!" Gordon said. "This is a big one. What an awesome show by Hendrick Motorsports."

It was Gordon's second victory in a row, fourth of the season and 68th of his career. He also became the first driver to win this race from the pole since Cale Yarborough in 1981.

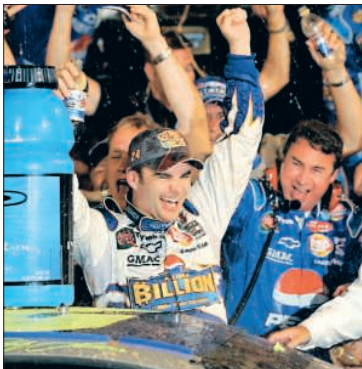
Gordon, who wound up leading a race-high 61 laps, gave series leader Johnson a lot of credit.

"He gave me a push out there that no one else would have given me," Gordon said. "I owe this win to him and I owe him a push and the next time I'm going to give him one."

Gordon, already the leader among active Nextel Cup drivers in victories at Daytona and Talladega, the tracks where NASCAR requires horsepower-robbing carburetor restrictions to keep the cars under 200 mph, came up with his eighth plate victory and second in a row.

At Talladega in April, Earnhardt, considered by many the guy to beat in every plate race, was mounting a late challenge to Gordon when a caution flag with three laps remaining gave Gordon the victory, bringing a wave of cheers and sending him sliding down on the track from unhappy Earnhardt fans.

This time, there was little question. Every time he got behind, Gordon was able to work his way back to the lead, while Earnhardt came up short at the end.



Left: Jeff Gordon and his team celebrate after Gordon won the Pepsi 400 Saturday at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla. It was the four-time NASCAR champion's second straight Nextel Cup victory. Below: Dale Earnhardt Jr. drives through water in the infield after being forced off pit road after a stop. Earnhardt recovered to finish third in a race that was delayed at the start for two hours by rain.

AP photos



With Johnson, whose car Gordon owns, giving him a solid push, Gordon's No. 24 Chevrolet took the lead for the final time on the 1.547-mile laps on the 2½-mile oval, passing Tony Stewart and pulling away.

It finished with Johnson 0.143 seconds — about two car-lengths — behind, followed by Earnhardt, Kurt Busch, Stewart, Mark Martin, Bobby Labonte and two more Hendrick drivers, Terry Labonte and rookie Brian Vickers.

Waltrip, who combined with Earnhardt to win five of the previous seven Cup races at Daytona, dominated early, leading five times for 57 laps, but fought an ill-handling car and wound up 13th.

Stewart, who was fined \$50,000 earlier in the week for hitting Vickers in a post-race altercation last Sunday at Sonoma, was nowhere near the lead until late in the race. He took the

top spot on the last series of pit stops when his Joe Gibbs Racing team put on only two tires while the other leaders took four.

Earnhardt, who had a slow stop and had fallen to eighth, got all the way to second on lap 149 before slipping back into the pack again.

Meanwhile, Gordon and Johnson hooked up and went after Stewart, moving past him easily 17 laps from the end.

Johnson, with Earnhardt looming in his mirrors, tried to make a move on Gordon, but couldn't catch him.

"Jeff's on his game and he knows how to do this plate racing," said Johnson, who hurt his chances of a victory when he slid through his pit on his last stop and nearly slid into the pit wall.

Johnson came out of the race with the same 27-point lead over Earnhardt he had going in. Gordon is third, 232 points back.

Pepsi 400

NASCAR Nextel Cup Series
Saturday
At Daytona International Speedway
Daytona Beach, Fla.
Lap length: 1.547 miles
(Start position in parentheses)

1. (1) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 160, \$340,700
2. (19) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 160, \$190,500
3. (5) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 160, \$190,500
4. (35) Kurt Busch, Ford, 160, \$142,425
5. (11) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 160, \$140,825
6. (21) Mark Martin, Ford, 160, \$108,375
7. (15) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 160, \$108,375
8. (10) Terry Labonte, Chevrolet, 160, \$108,375
9. (14) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 160, \$99,000
10. (6) Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet, 160, \$103,625
11. (24) Casey Mears, Dodge, 160, \$103,625
12. (13) Ryan Newman, Dodge, 160, \$103,625
13. (21) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet, 160, \$103,625
14. (11) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 160, \$103,625
15. (23) Dave Blaney, Chevrolet, 160, \$90,750
16. (4) Dale Jarrett, Ford, 160, \$11,817
17. (1) Ricky Rudd, Ford, 160, \$107,962
18. (34) Bill Elliott, Dodge, 160, \$75,425
19. (36) Elliott Gordon, Chevrolet, 160, \$109,862
20. (2) Sterling Marlin, Dodge, 160, \$109,862
21. (3) Scott Riggs, Chevrolet, 160, \$101,887
22. (20) Jeff Burton, Ford, 160, \$109,642
23. (13) Kyle Petty, Dodge, 160, \$85,075
24. (31) Kasey Kahne, Chevrolet, 160, \$103,700
25. (29) Elliott Sadler, Ford, 160, \$103,700
26. (27) Rusty Wallace, Dodge, 160, \$112,150
27. (36) Kerry Earnhardt, Chevrolet, 160, \$68,750
28. (40) Jimmy Spencer, Chevrolet, 159, \$71,275
29. (3) Jeff Green, Dodge, 159, \$58,560
30. (9) Greg Biffle, Ford, 159, \$59,115
31. (30) Scott Wimmer, Chevrolet, 159, \$66,889
32. (32) Morgan Shepherd, Dodge, 157, \$66,889
33. (42) Larry Unser, Dodge, 156, \$67,750
34. (29) Ken Schaefer, Ford, 151, \$67,750
35. (12) Brendan Gaughan, Chevrolet, 136, \$75,400
36. (32) Jamie McMurray, Dodge, 126, \$111,800
37. (38) Ricky Craven, Chevrolet, 121, \$75,150
38. (30) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 110, accidents: 1,117, 2003
39. (40) Ward Burton, Chevrolet, 84, \$66,875
40. (41) Mike Wallace, Dodge, 77, suspension: 4
41. (28) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Chevrolet, 74, suspension: 4
42. (19) John Andretti, Chevrolet, 44, accidents: 1,117, 2003

Race Statistics

Time of race: 2 hours, 40 minutes, 23 seconds
Margin of victory: 0.143 seconds
Winner's average speed: 161.117 mph
Lead changes: 15 for 25 laps
Lead changes: 21 among 10 drivers
Lap leaders: J. Gordon 1, M. Waltrip 10-15; K. Busch 26; M. Waltrip 21-45; E. Earnhardt Jr. 46; K. Newman 47; M. Waltrip 48-54; E. Earnhardt Jr. 55-72; M. Waltrip 73; M. Shepherd 74; J. Gordon 75-8; J. Gordon 113-137; E. Earnhardt Jr. 138; E. Earnhardt Jr. 139-149; J. Gordon 150-151; T. Stewart 142-153; J. Gordon 154-160.
NASCAR.com race leader: J. Gordon
1. Johnson, 2.545; 2. E. Earnhardt Jr., 2.545; 3. Johnson, 2.113; 4. T. Stewart, 2.261; 5. E. Earnhardt Jr., 2.261; 6. M. Waltrip, 2.188; 7. E. Labonte, 2.188; 8. K. Busch, 2.188; 9. R. Newman, 2.112; 10. K. Harvick, 2.095.

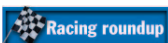
IRL's Rice edges Miera by razor-thin margin in Kansas

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Buddy Rice picked up his second Indy Racing League victory of the year Sunday, beating Vitor Meira by the second-closest margin in IRL history.

Just 0.052 seconds separated the two Rahal Letterman Racing teammates at Kansas Speedway. The only IRL race that was closer was at Chicagoland in 2002 when Sam Hornish Jr. beat Al Unser Jr. by 0.024.

Rice, the Indianapolis 500 winner and Sunday's pole-sitter, narrowly lost the lead to Meira going into the last lap of the 200-lap Arlington Motor Speedway race with IRL points leader Tony Kanaan lurking just behind, looking for an opening.



With Rice inside and Meira outside, Kanaan never got a chance. Darío Franchitti was fourth, followed by the top 10 by Bryan Herta, Adrian Fernandez, Helio Castroneves, Hornish, Dan Wheldon and Alex Barron.

Schumacher wins French GP

MAGNY COURS, France — Michael Schumacher won the French Grand Prix on Sunday for his ninth victory in 10 Formula One races this season, holding off a strong challenge by the Renault team.

Renault, led by Fernando Alonso

of Spain, managed to end Ferrari's string of three straight 1-2 finishes. Alonso, a rising Formula One star, held the pole position and was runner-up, 8.3 seconds behind.

Schumacher's Brazilian teammate Rubens Barrichello, despite starting from the 10th position, passed Renault's Jarno Trulli of Italy on the final lap to place third.

This was Schumacher seventh victory in the French GP and 79th in his Formula One career. The German has 90 points for the season and Barrichello is second with 67.

Edwards comes back from early crash, wins truck race

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Carl

Edwards came back from a first-lap accident Saturday to win the Craftsman Truck Series race at Kansas Speedway, his second victory of the season.

Edwards' Ford failed inspection after the O'Reilly Auto Parts 250 because it did not meet the minimum height requirement. NASCAR confiscated some parts of the truck and planned to return them to its research and development center in North Carolina.

Points leader Denny Setzer never recovered from another early crash in the most caution-filled truck race in the track's four-year history.

He finished 25th and his lead over Edwards in the standings dropped from 131 points to 34, with Bobby Hamilton 61 points

off the lead after his second-place finish Saturday.

Bourdays doubles trouble, defends Cleveland GP title

CLEVELAND — Sebastian Bourdays took the lead after a first-lap crash. Tony Kanaan, who knocked out pole-sitter Paul Tracy, then ran away to win his second straight Cleveland Grand Prix.

After avoiding a chain-reaction accident just seconds into the race involving Alex Tagliani and others, Bourdays dominated to win by 4.8 seconds over Bruno Junqueira, his Newman-Haas teammate.

It was Bourdays' third victory in five Champ Car events this season. Tagliani finished third, 27.84 seconds back.

SPORTS

Twice as nice



A's hold off cross-bay rivals for second time of season, Page 29



Defending champion Roger Federer, reacts at match point against Andy Roddick in the Wimbledon final on the Centre Court Sunday. Federer won the match 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (3), 6-4 to retain the title. Federer is the first men's player to repeat as champion since Pete Sampras in 2000.

Federer holds off Roddick to defend Wimbledon title

BY STEPHEN WILSON
The Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — Roger Federer overcame Andy Roddick's brute power game Sunday to win his second straight Wimbledon title and cement his status as the game's No. 1 player.

The top-seeded Swiss star withstood Roddick's huge serves and forehand winners, winning 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (3), 6-4 for his third Grand Slam title and 24th consecutive victory on grass.

Federer came from a break down at 2-4 in the third set and took charge by playing a brilliant third-set tiebreaker. He saved six break points in the fourth set, broke Roddick at love in the seventh game and finished the match with his 12th ace.

When his final 124 mph serve flew past Roddick, Federer dropped to his knees at the base-

line and arched his body all the way onto his back. He got up and smacked a ball into the crowd. Roddick came around the net and the players hugged. Federer appeared to be in tears as he sat on his courtside chair.

After receiving the trophy from the Duke of Kent, Federer kissed it and raised it over his head to a huge ovation from the Centre Court crowd.

"It is an unbelievable feeling," Federer said. "It's still difficult to believe it but I'm definitely enjoying this moment as much as I can."

Turning to Roddick, he said, "He played very, very aggressive. I got surprised but everybody knows his power. I got lucky today for sure, because I was down one set all and a break, and if Andy would maybe serve a few good games he would be up two sets to one."

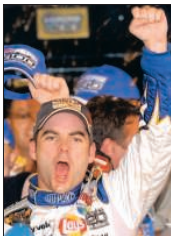
"He also deserves this title, so I hope in the future we're going to play many more times at this place."

It was Federer's third win in three Grand Slam finals. He won the Australian Open in February. "I kind of like it — the 100 percent record in Grand Slams," he said. "These are the ones that really, really count. Grand Slam tournaments put you just a set higher. To have won my favorite tournament already twice in my career is incredible."

Roddick, the U.S. Open champion, gave Federer full credit.

"Roger just played too good today," he said. "I threw the kitchen sink at him, but he went to the bathroom and got a tub. It's definitely tough losing, but I feel good in myself that I left everything out there. Roger is a great champion and hopefully we'll get to do this again sometime."

SEE FEDERER ON PAGE 26



Gordon wins at Daytona with help from teammate

Page 31



Rosales builds three-shot lead in U.S. Open

Page 30



Andy Roddick tries to play a return to Roger Federer in the Wimbledon final on Sunday.



Report: Jones' ex-coach turned in steroid trial

Page 30

Armstrong third overall after first stage of Tour Page 26